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MATT MYERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Marine Col. Daniel Wilson was convicted in September of sexually abusing a child.

Parents of child molested by Marine colonel seek \$25 million

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Marine Col. Daniel Wilson had been in Australia for less than a week when alarming allegations of a "sexual nature" began to surface in the winter of 2016.

He was recalled to his command at the Okinawa-based III Marine Expeditionary Force but was not investigated or reported, according to a 2017 Marine Corps Inspector General report.

With little fanfare, Wilson was shifted to the general staff at Camp Lejeune's II MEF. Within six months, he was accused of molesting the children of a junior officer.

During a court-martial last September, Wilson was convicted of the sexual abuse of a child, six counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman and absence without leave. He was sentenced to 5½ years in prison and dismissed from service.

The parents are now seeking \$25 million from the Marine Corps for the pain and suffering of their three daughters and for long-term mental health treatment. They blame former III MEF commander Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson for not holding Wilson to account for earlier transgressions, which later allowed the colonel to prey on their family.



George "Alexi" Whitney

'He thought he was doing the right thing'

Contractor's love for CIA work leads to his death

BY IAN SHAPIRA
The Washington Post

They came from all corners of his life. His New England boarding school. His small liberal arts college. The Marines. And CIA.

Family, friends and colleagues gathered on a summer Monday to pay tribute to George "Alexi" Whitney, who was killed in Afghanistan just before Christmas in 2016 and was finally being buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

His family had fought hard for that honor. Because the 38-year-old was a CIA

contractor when he died, they needed special permission for his remains to be buried underground rather than in the columbarium. They'd enlisted the aid of Mike Pompeo, the former director of the CIA, which had recognized Whitney with a star on its Memorial Wall without publicly acknowledging its affiliation with him.

The July 23 ceremony at Arlington appeared to be like one of the many funerals held here for a slain U.S. servicemember. Six horses pulled a caisson carrying a flag-draped coffin containing his urn. A bugler played taps.

But Whitney is among a tiny group of

CIA contractors killed in the longest war in U.S. history. That includes Jeremy Wise and Dane Paresi, who were among the seven agency operatives killed in 2009 by a suicide bomber in Khost, one of the deadliest attacks in CIA history; and Jay Henggan, an agency contractor and plumber killed in Kabul in 2011.

Overall, the war has claimed the lives of more than 1,700 U.S. contractors, according to one Labor Department report, and nearly 2,400 American servicemembers, according to the Defense Department.

SEE CONTRACTOR ON PAGE 6

WAR ON TERRORISM

Leader of Haqqani network dies after long illness

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The founder of the Haqqani network, an insurgent group known for high-profile attacks on both military and civilian targets in Afghanistan, has died after a long illness, according to a Taliban spokesman.

Jalaluddin Haqqani, once called "goodness personified" by U.S. politicians who backed him in his battles against the Russians in the 1980s, founded a Taliban-linked organization responsible for some of the insurgency's most heinous attacks, including the 2017 truck bomb blast near the German Embassy in Kabul that killed 150 and injured 413.

After the U.S. toppled the Taliban government in 2001, Haqqani served as the network's military commander. He is believed to be among the first insurgents to adopt the tactic of suicide bombings, once seen as

dishonorable among Afghan fighters, journalist Steve Coll wrote in the book "Directorate S," which chronicled CIA activity in Afghanistan and Pakistan after 9/11.

In 2005, Haqqani refused a position in government from Afghan President Hamid Karzai, whom Haqqani sought to kill.

Haqqani's son, Sirajuddin Haqqani, currently leads day-to-day operations for the network, which seeks to expel U.S. and coalition forces. The younger Haqqani is also one of the key deputies to the Taliban's supreme leader.

The network is run out of northwest Pakistan, where it retains the backing of elements of Pakistan's security establishment, according to the Institute for the Study of War, a nonpartisan research group. Pakistani officials have denied backing the Haqqani network.

The Defense Department has taken final steps to cancel \$300 million in aid once ear-

marked for Pakistan "due to a lack of Pakistani decisive actions in support of" the U.S. efforts to end the Afghan conflict, Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Kone Faulkner said Sunday, according to The Associated Press.

Meanwhile, the U.S. confirmed Monday that an Aug. 25 airstrike in eastern Nangarhar province killed the leader of Islamic State in Afghanistan. The statement from NATO's Resolute Support mission followed days after the Afghan government claimed last week that Oraakzai, also known as Abu Saad Erhabi, and nine other terrorists had been killed in a U.S. strike.

It marks the third time U.S. forces have killed a leader of ISIS in Afghanistan since 2016, according to a NATO Resolute Support statement.

"America and her allies are in Afghanistan to maintain pressure on the networked, trans-regional terrorists attempting to plot, resource and direct attacks from here," said U.S. Army Gen. Scott Miller, the new



MOHAMMED RIAZ/AP

Jalaluddin Haqqani, founder of the militant group the Haqqani network, speaks during an interview in Pakistan in August 1998. His death has been announced.

Iranian official: 'Terrorists must be purged' from Syria's Idlib

By ALBERT AJI
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Iran's foreign minister said at the start of a visit to Damascus on Monday that "terrorists must be purged" from Syria's Idlib and the entire northwestern province returned to government control.

Mohammad Javad Zarif's comments in Damascus were reported by Iran's semiofficial Fars News Agency and came as Syrian forces and their allies are preparing for an assault on Idlib, the last opposition stronghold in the country.

"Syria's territorial integrity should be safeguarded, and all tribes and groups, as one society, should start the reconstruction

process, and the refugees should return to their homes," Zarif said.

Zarif met with Syrian President Bashar Assad and Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem, who is just back from a visit to Moscow. The visit comes days before the leaders of Iran, Turkey and Russia are expected to meet in Iran to discuss the situation in Idlib.

President Donald Trump on Monday sent a tweet warning Assad and his allies against a "reckless attack" on Idlib province.

"The Russians and Iranians would be making a grave humanitarian mistake to take part in this potential human tragedy. Hundreds of thousands of people could be killed. Don't

let that happen!" Trump said.

During their meeting Assad and Zarif discussed the agenda of the summit in Iran. A statement from Assad's office said Iran and Syria "had similar views on the different issues" to be discussed. It provided no further details.

Zarif said it was necessary to consult "with our Syrian friends" ahead of the Sept. 7 summit, according to Fars.

Iran has lent crucial military and economic support to Assad throughout the seven-year civil war, and the discussions are expected to focus on the decisive battle for Idlib. Assad has vowed to defeat the opposition in its last refuge in the northwestern prov-

ince if the rebels do not surrender to government rule.

Idlib and the surrounding area is home to some 3 million people — nearly half of them already displaced more than once by the civil war. Tens of thousands of people fled to Idlib after surrendering in government offensives elsewhere, choosing to relocate to an opposition-held area rather than risk reprisals or forced conscription at the hands of the government.

U.N. officials believe an offensive on Idlib would trigger a wave of displacement that could uproot an estimated 800,000 people and discourage refugees from returning home.

The Washington Post reported that Russian warplanes in Syria

bombed the final rebel stronghold Tuesday, according to a monitoring group, ending the weeks-long period of uneasy calm there and raising fears that an all-out offensive would follow.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights recorded more than a dozen strikes around the northern city of Jisr al-Shughour in Idlib province. In photographs from the area, plumes of dust and smoke could be seen rising from the edge of a residential district.

The U.S. and France have warned that an Idlib offensive would trigger a humanitarian crisis and that a chemical attack in Idlib would prompt a western retaliation.

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PACIFIC

US, Japanese ships train in South China Sea

By CAITLIN DOORNbos
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Several U.S. and Japanese ships recently trained together in the contentious waters of the South China Sea.

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force helicopter carrier JS Kaga linked up there on Friday to practice maneuvers, sail in formation and conduct replenishment-at-sea training, a Navy statement said.

The cruiser USS Antietam, the destroy-

er USS Milius and the JMSDF destroyers JS Inazumi and JS Suzutsuki also took part in the drills.

The Ronald Reagan and the Kaga — one of Japan's two new helicopter carriers — deployed from Yokosuka last month to patrol a region that is wrought with tension over China's militarization of artificial South China Sea islets and an ongoing dispute between Tokyo and Beijing over the sovereignty of the Japan-controlled Senkaku island chain.

Navy officials referred to the Ronald Reagan strike group's deployment as a

"patrol," while the JMSDF described their two-month journey through the South China Sea and Indian Ocean as a "training mission." A JMSDF spokesman last month told Stars and Stripes he hoped the mission would contribute to a "free and open" Indo-Pacific region.

During Friday's drills, the Ronald Reagan and Kaga hosted liaisons from one another's crews for discussions and training, the Navy statement said. Task Force 70 commander Rear Adm. Karl Thomas boarded the Kaga for a discussion with JMSDF Rear Adm. Tatsuya Fukuda, com-

mander of Escort Flotilla 4, regarding "maritime unit cohesion."

"The teamwork and professionalism I have experienced by both [Task Force 70] and JMSDF sailors during this training operation has truly demonstrated how seamlessly we can integrate with our Japanese allies," Thomas said in the statement.

The Kaga is scheduled to return to Yokosuka in October. The Navy does not announce movement plans for its vessels.

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COURTESY OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES/AP

The Philippine Navy ship BRP Gregorio del Pilar is seen after it ran aground during a routine patrol last week in the vicinity of Half Moon Shoal off the disputed Spratlys Group of islands in the South China Sea.

Philippines extricates warship from shoal in South China Sea

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine navy extricated one of its largest warships from the shoal where it ran aground last week near a hotly disputed region in the South China Sea.

Two Philippine security officials told The Associated Press early Tuesday that tugboats were used to pull the BRP Gregorio del Pilar from the shallow fringes of Half Moon Shoal, which the Philippines calls Hasa Hasa, before midnight. The military later confirmed the successful extrication.

The frigate, which was being towed back to a Philippine port, ran aground during a routine patrol Wednesday night, damaging some of its propellers. Its more than 100 crewmembers were unhurt.

The barren shoal is on the eastern edge of the disputed Spratly archipelago, where tensions have run high in recent years after China built seven disputed reefs into man-made islands

and reportedly installed missile defense systems.

Philippine defense officials notified their Chinese counterparts after the accidental grounding of the Philippine Navy frigate at the shoal, which Beijing claims, to avoid any misunderstanding, said the two Philippine officials, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said last week that China offered to help but that the Philippines would handle it.

Chinese frigate ran aground on the shoal in 2012 and was pulled away by Chinese military ships.

Half Moon Shoal lies about 68 miles from the southern tip of the western Philippine island of Palawan and south of the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, where a Philippine navy transport ship was intentionally grounded in 1999 and has since served as a Philippine military outpost.

China has repeatedly demanded

the now-rusty BRP Sierra Madre be removed from Second Thomas Shoal, which is claimed by the Philippines and China.

A military report seen by the AP said the propellers of the BRP Gregorio del Pilar were damaged by the grounding. The crew reported, however, that the frigate was not taking in water.

At least four Philippine Navy and Coast Guard ships were deployed to secure the BRP Gregorio del Pilar and provide food and other supplies to its sailors. Tugboats were hired to extricate the ship and tow it to a Philippine port for repairs, military spokesman Col. Edgardo Arevalo said.

The frigate is one of three former U.S. Coast Guard cutters acquired by the Philippine military and now are the Philippines' largest warships.

The United States and Asian governments which have claims in the disputed sea, including the Philippines, have raised alarms over China's island building and militarization of the strategic territory.

Fishermen seek payout for fuel tank incident

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Fishermen in northern Japan are expected to request more than \$837,000 after an American fighter jet jettisoned its fuel tanks into a lake near Misawa Air Base earlier this year.

Freshwater shellfish gathering at Lake Ogawara was shut down for a month after the tanks were dropped on Feb. 20 due to an engine fire on an F-16 assigned to the 35th Fighter Wing. The aircraft landed safely and there were no injuries.

One hundred and eighty fishermen in a local association are expected to seek a payout from the U.S. and Japanese governments for losses suffered during the shutdown, which happened during the peak season for freshwater shellfish, a Tohoku Defense Bureau spokesman said Tuesday.

Japanese officials will review any claim and hold talks with U.S. counterparts, he said.

The status of forces agreement that governs U.S. forces in Japan says the U.S. and Japan will each pay a portion of any compensation caused during official duty. Testing conducted March 8-13 showed no fuel from the tanks in the lake, although detection efforts continue, an Air Force statement said.

"We are committed to performing our mission in an environmentally responsible manner, and we will continue to work with the local community to ensure Lake Ogawara remains safe for fishing and other endeavors," then-35th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Scott Jobe said in the statement.

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Marine is accused of stealing donation box

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A "heavily intoxicated" Okinawa-based Marine was arrested Monday on accusations that he stole a donation box containing about \$50 for flood and landslide victims in western Japan.

Jonathan McKinley, 20, of Camp Hansen, is accused of taking the box from near a convenience store cash register while on leave in Kyoto, said Deputy Chief Kohichi Yamada, a Kyoto-Nakagyo Police spokesman.

McKinley, whose rank was unknown Tuesday, then entered an izakaya, or Japanese pub, presented the donation box to the staff and demanded food and drinks, Yamada said. After being refused service, he smashed the box on the floor, scattering its contents.

McKinley was arrested at the izakaya after getting into a fight with a friend, Yamada said. He was still in custody Tuesday, pending charges.

McKinley "has not admitted his charges as he does not remember stealing the box," Yamada said.

Relief efforts are ongoing after rains in late June and July caused flooding and landslides that killed at least 220 people in 14 prefectures, Japan's Yomiuri newspaper reported.

In July, more than 50 servicemembers from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni joined local volunteer efforts to clean flood-damaged homes.

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MILITARY

Class ring found at WWII crash site returned to son

BY WILLIAM HOWARD
Stars and Stripes

RIDGEWELL, England — Ken Spatz never met his father, a B-17 aircraft waist gunner with the same name who died in World War II. But last week he visited the site where the B-17 crashed and collected a memento — his father's long-lost high school ring.

Andy Cox, a British farmer and metal-detecting enthusiast, discovered the ring about a decade ago in a dump on a friend's property near a disused WWII-era airfield in Ridgewell. The 1941 class ring was from a high school in Birdsboro, Pa.

It was among many other items, he said, "everything from U.S. Army toothbrushes to bits of aircraft and dog tags."

Cox said he was unable to find the owner of the ring until he met Todd Peterson, a Pennsylvania police officer, two years ago on Facebook.

"I explained to him about this ring and I would like to try and get the records for the school for that year," Cox said. "He gave me the list of names, and there was



Spatz holds his father's 1941 high school graduation ring.

one guy in there, Ken Spatz, and I traced him back on the unit's roster."

Kenneth L. Spatz, it turned out, had been assigned to the 381st Bomb Group, a unit that flew B-17 Flying Fortresses from the former Royal Air Force station known as RAF Ridgewell between June 1943 and April 1945. He and seven other crewmembers onboard a B-17 named Smashing



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM HOWARD/Stars and Stripes

British farmer Andy Cox, right, shows some of the wreckage from a B-17 named Smashing Thru to Ken Spatz at the bomber's crash site in Ridgewell, England, on Friday.

Thru were killed when their plane crashed after both engines failed.

Peterson managed to locate Spatz's son in Pennsylvania and asked him if he'd be willing to talk to a man from England.

Cox said he called Spatz that night and emailed him photos of the ring.

"I told him, 'The ring is yours and it belongs with you,'" Cox said. "He said, 'Don't post it because that'll be the one thing that gets lost. We'll come and collect it.'"

Last week, Spatz and his wife began a pilgrimage through Europe, visiting various WWII historical sites. They ended their journey in England.

Cox and his friends planned a whole day of events for Spatz and his wife after picking them up from the Ridgewell train station. They went to see the reconstruction of a B-17 cockpit and the Ridgewell Airfield Commemorative Museum. Their last stop was the crash site, now a farmer's field, where Cox gave the 1941

class ring to Spatz.

The field belongs to Cox's friend, who also has a dump of items left from the former air station. Some hand-sized pieces of melted metal from the B-17 remain at the crash site.

"I'm incredibly in debt to these fellows and what they've arranged," Spatz said, fighting back tears. "Just imagining that B-17 coming in here and flipping over is too big for me to talk about."

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Courtesy of Andy Cox

Above: A photo shows the burning wreckage of a B-17 Flying Fortress named Smashing Thru on July 13, 1944. Eight crewmembers were killed as the plane skidded into an unseen railroad cut during an emergency landing. Left: Spatz, left, and Cox visit a memorial for the 318th Bomb Group in Ridgewell.

Defense contractor to expand in NC, add 200 jobs

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Officials said a defense contractor is adding 200 jobs to its North Carolina workforce in exchange for more than \$2 million in financial incentives.

News outlets reported Gov. Roy Cooper formally announced the expansion by Virginia-based

Booz Allen Hamilton on Tuesday. The company will expand an existing facility in Fayetteville and then expand in Cumberland County over the next five years.

Cooper said the company chose the area because of the workforce, which includes military spouses and veterans who live near Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune.

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MILITARY

GI, 2 other Americans hurt in wreck in Germany

BY MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

A 29-year-old U.S. soldier and two other Americans were hurt in an accident Saturday near Grafenwoehr, Germany, when the soldier's car struck a car he was attempting to pass and then hit a second car coming from the opposite direction, police said.

The crash forced a two-hour closure of the B299. The soldier and occupants of the car he was trying to pass — a 45-year-old civilian and her 10-year-old son — were taken to a hospital in Weiden for treatment, police said.

Information on their medical status was not immediately available Tuesday.

The soldier was traveling on the B299 from Huetten toward Kaltenbrunn around 5:15 p.m. Saturday when he attempted to pass the woman's car. When he saw the oncoming car, he veered back toward the right lane, hitting the woman's car and pushing it against the right-side guardrail.

The oncoming car, which was also struck by the soldier's vehicle, was forced off the road, Eschenbach police said in a statement.

A U.S. soldier was the driver of the oncoming vehicle. German police do not typically release the identities of those involved in accidents.

U.S. military officials were not immediately available for comment Tuesday.

Police said results of a blood test on the soldier driving the passing car were not yet available.

kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com

Officials probe GI's death in Afghanistan

Stars and Stripes

A U.S. servicemember died in a noncombat incident in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, the military said.

The incident is under investigation, according to a statement from U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, which gave no details about the death. Identification of the servicemember is pending notification of next of kin.

The death, which marks the seventh American fatality in the country this year, came a day after a U.S. servicemember died of wounds sustained in a suspected insider attack in eastern Logar province.

More than 2,400 American servicemembers have died supporting the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, now in its 17th year.

news@stripes.com

Parents: If USMC denies request, family can file suit

FROM FRONT PAGE

"The Marine Corps failed to properly punish Wilson and hold him accountable for what he did in Australia," said Adrian Perry, the brother of the girl Wilson was convicted of molesting. "They didn't just fail our family. They failed every family in the Marine Corps when they chose to do that because really anybody could have been his prey, his next victim."

'Nasty bit of goods'

In March 2015, Marine Corps Forces Pacific Commander Lt. Gen. John Toolan signed an order instructing Marines deployed to Australia to respect the country's customs and to refrain from behavior that would be "offensive," including excessive drinking.

On Feb. 16, 2016, Wilson — who had been serving as chief of staff for 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force — arrived in Australia to take over as officer-in-charge of the forward command element for Marine Rotational Force-Darwin. Wilson was counseled about the behavior that was expected of him before he was sent, the IG report said.

His counterpart in Australia, navy commander Greg Mapson, said Wilson had a serious drinking problem.

"He would polish off a bottle of Jack Daniel's every night," Mapson said. "The Marine Corps knew everything about him. His reputation preceded him."

By Feb. 22, Mapson and other Australian officers had lodged complaints about Wilson because of his behavior.

The colonel was accused of forcing a subordinate officer to send him photos of his wife in lingerie and sharing them with Mapson. Mapson said Wilson later demanded nude photos and a used pair of the woman's underwear.

Mapson said Wilson also made sexual comments to a fellow Marine's wife, down to excess daily, drove drunk, sent an inappropriate email to Mapson from the computer of a female Australian Defence Department civilian employee, which violated Australian Defence Force regulations, and sent inappropriate text messages to a married female ADP officer. "He was a nasty bit of goods," Mapson said of the colonel.

An incident report regarding those allegations was filed on Feb. 24, the IG report said. The next day, Toolan recalled Wilson from Darwin.

When he got back to Okinawa, Nicholson summoned Wilson, whom he referred to affectionately as "Danny," according to the IG report, and asked him what happened. Wilson told him it was a personality conflict. Nicholson thought the allegations lacked credibility, the report added.

While Toolan later told investigators that he felt the complaints were credible, he thought it was Nicholson's job to report the incident, which would have likely led to an investigation and discipline. Nicholson told investigators he felt it was Toolan's job to file the report since he was the senior commander and the one who had recalled Wilson.



ADAM MILLER/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Marine Col. Daniel Wilson was convicted of eight charges last year, sentenced to 5½ years in prison and dismissed from service.

Nothing was done, and the colonel was moved to II MEF as operations officer on April 30, 2016.

"They kind of got in a pointing match at each other and said, 'No, it was you.' 'No, it was you,' who had responsibility for him," said Don Christensen, retired Air Force colonel now serving as president of the Protect Our Defenders Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to ending rape and sexual assault in the military. Christensen and the foundation are providing legal assistance to the Perry family.

"One of the two was required to put [Wilson] in the Officer Disciplinary Notebook. ... They would have had to have done an actual investigation," Christensen said. "Again, the Marine Corps IG found these allegations in Australia against Wilson were substantiated, and if they would have done the investigation, he would have been put in a track to have his Marine Corps career end."

Christensen agrees with the IG's decision to pin the lion's share of blame on Nicholson.

In this case, General Nicholson did not have the discretion to ignore the crimes committed in Australia by Colonel Wilson and was required to do certain things," he said. "[Nicholson] failed to do those certain things and as a result Wilson was allowed to move to Lejeune, and then because he was at Lejeune, he had access to the Perry children."

While Nicholson originally denied responsibility, he eventually reversed course and accepted blame, according to the IG report.

Nicholson did not respond to requests for comment through the Marine Corps. He is retiring from the service after 39 years.

'Dark culture'

While Wilson settled in unscathed at his new assignment in North Carolina, Perry said her family's nightmare was just about to begin.

Her Marine Corps major husband had served under Wilson on Okinawa. They arrived in North Carolina shortly after the colonel.

Perry said Wilson "lured" them in, inviting them to "get out of the hotel," to hang out at his house and do laundry. He was alone with their children on several occasions.

Brian Block said the Marine Corps does "not comment on ongoing litigation."

"The investigation into the circumstances surrounding Colonel Wilson's actions in Australia and any follow-on disciplinary action is publicly available and speaks for itself," he said.

Block said every Marine, regardless of rank or position, is expected to uphold the "values of honor, courage and commitment that define our Corps."

"When Marines fall short of those ideals, commanders and leaders have a variety of tools at their disposal to address that misconduct," he said. "Every situation is unique, just as every Marine is unique."

Perry accused Nicholson of perpetrating a cover-up to protect a friend. She described a "dark culture" in which officers care each of other and misbehavior is overlooked.

Christensen said he has seen it often and called for independent prosecutors to make decisions as to which Marines are investigated and whether they are charged.

"In our experience we often see senior officers step in to either enable those who've committed crimes or try to cover investigations," he said.

"This shows why it's so important that allegations of crimes be taken seriously, whether that involves a lance corporal or a colonel or a general," he added. "You have to take them seriously because there can be lifelong consequences for others down the road if you fail to do that."

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NATION

Contractor: Whitney volunteered when mission suddenly came up

FROM FRONT PAGE

"All wars are futile," said Alexi's father, George Whitney III, 72, speaking about his son's death publicly for the first time. But going to Afghanistan is "what Alexi wanted. He thought he was doing the right thing, and that's all that counts for me."

Whitney's ex-wife, a former CIA officer, knew something else: Despite the CIA star and Pompeo's help arranging an Arlington burial, Whitney's career at Langley was turbulent, and he often felt like the agency he loved dismissed his talents.

Whitney wasn't even supposed to be in Afghanistan. He had been planning to spend the 2016 holiday season at his father's home in South Florida. Then a mission suddenly came up, and Whitney volunteered.

Risky mission

The trip was risky. Two of Whitney's friends in the CIA's paramilitary force, Brian Hoke and Nate Delemarre, had been killed in Afghanistan two months earlier.

"My understanding was that Alexi went back because they were on to the people who killed Brian and Nate. It was his intention to track those people down," said Whitney's father, who was briefed on his death by an agency official.

So, a week before Christmas, Whitney and several other teammates lined up outside a building in the Jalalabad area, poised to assault a compound of insurgents, his father said. A helicopter was surveilling above, but no one saw an insurgent slip out a back exit of the structure.

The assailant sneaked around and shot Whitney in the shoulder, his father said, and the impact spun him around, allowing the gunman to fire at his face. He was air-lifted to a hospital, but the injuries were too extensive.

"I know my son extremely well, and he was very passionate about this job and passionate about this team," his father said. "Whatever building the agency was attacking — it's now gone. My hope is they killed everybody."

In some ways, Whitney was an unlikely warrior.

He was born into a patrician family. His great-great-grandfather was Robert Bacon, secretary of state under President Theodore Roosevelt. His great-uncle, Richard Whitney, the onetime president of the New York Stock Exchange, helped prop up the market during the great crash of 1929.

Growing up in Vermont and Massachusetts, Whitney was surrounded by his father's military books. His grandfather George Whitney Jr. served on a Navy destroyer in the Pacific during World War II.

"Alexi's Christmas list one year was for a set of books on the rise and fall of the Roman Empire," said his sister Larissa Whitney, 38, a landscape architecture graduate student in Northern Virginia. "Who asks for that when they're 14? I wanted a dolphin and a puppy."

Surprising decision

Whitney wrestled and played football and lacrosse at Brooks School, a coed boarding academy north of Boston. By the time he got to Bates College in Maine, he was talking about joining the Marines. He told his mother, Caryn Whitney, that he didn't want a deskbound life.

Still, his decision to enlist after graduating from Bates in 2000 stunned his friends.

"You don't see boarding school, Bates



Courtesy of the Whitney family

Whitney sits at his father's home in South Florida in 2016.

WASPY kids joining the military," said Liz Forbes, a close friend. "We were like, 'Wait a second, you're George Whitney.'"

He arrived on the front lines in Iraq in early 2005, at a time when the war was killing more than 800 U.S. servicemembers a year. Based in Anbar province, Whitney, then a first lieutenant, led a platoon within the selective 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, searching for insurgents and clearing roadside bombs.

"There are people out there that want to kill you every day," he told a crew for the documentary "Marine Recon," which aired on the Military Channel. "They are cautious and very smart."

Late in his deployment in 2005, Whitney's platoon got a tip on the location of a high-value target. He was under new orders not to detain such individuals until his superiors gave him the green light. But Whitney, now a captain whom comrades called "Lex," arrested the suspect anyway. He feared the man would escape, according to his father.

It was a disastrous move. Whitney underwent a disciplinary hearing known as a board of inquiry, and was honorably discharged in 2006.

"He was horrified," his father said. "He was so depressed."

New career

Out of the Marines, Whitney set his sights on the intelligence community.

In the spring of 2008, the CIA hired him as a case officer. Two years later, Whitney, who had married a boarding school classmate, was on his way to the agency's station in Karachi, Pakistan.

"He wanted to take down terrorists," said Iona Segaram, who worked alongside him there. "When he got to Karachi, he was beyond thrilled."

Although she regarded herself as a weary midcareer officer and Whitney as the idealist, the two instantly bonded. Segaram, who had served abroad elsewhere,



IAN SHAPIRA/The Washington Post

A horse-drawn caisson carries the remains of George "Alexi" Whitney, 38, at Arlington National Cemetery in July.

mentored Whitney in tradecraft.

Then, for the second time in his career, Whitney had a conflict with a superior. Shortly after the May 2, 2011, raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in northern Pakistan, one of his bosses filed a complaint accusing him of insubordinate behavior, said Segaram, who wouldn't divulge the details.

"It became this blow-up," Segaram said. "A lot of people came forward to vouch for him, but not enough to exonerate him, and he had to go through a counseling process. They put something in his file. The agency was trying to be fair, but it broke his heart, totally. He felt abandoned. He felt humiliated. It probably started him on a journey of redemption that ended in his death."

The CIA declined to comment.

Shortly before he left Pakistan in 2011, he confessed something to Segaram: He loved her.

Shocked, Segaram told him he had to resolve things with his wife, Lisa Bottomley, who was living in Boston and working part-time for a nonprofit group that aids children in Tanzania.

"The morning after he flew back to the States, he broke up with me," Bottomley said. "I wasn't expecting sunshine and rainbows when he got home, but I had no idea this was coming."

After the divorce, he and Segaram left the CIA and got married. They moved to Texas, where Segaram worked for an oil company and he took a job at a consulting firm doing investigative work.

Whitney yearned for a greater mission and itched to get back to the CIA, she said. His attempts went nowhere. The agency was loath to offer him another chance after his problems in Pakistan and his subsequent rejection of a posting in Africa.

The next-best-thing

Eventually, Whitney got what he considered the next-best thing: a CIA contracting job.

"It was dangerous. But he was with his Marine dad friends again and felt comfortable," said Segaram, who declined to offer more details about the job.

Even so, the inconsistent rhythms of an agency contractor — with frequent back-and-forth trips abroad — felt less satisfying.

'He felt abandoned. He felt humiliated. It probably started him on a journey of redemption that ended in his death.'

Iona Segaram
ex-wife of Alexi Whitney

ing than the career of a CIA case officer playing a central role in Langley's mission, she said.

By the time he left for Afghanistan in 2016, their marriage had ended but they remained close. She knew he faced the same risks as Hoke and Delemarre, his slain friends in the CIA's paramilitary unit.

"He was devastated by their deaths. He started to realize this kind of work has consequences," Segaram said. "I said, 'Are you sure you want to go?' I begged him not to."

On Dec. 17, Segaram texted him in the morning: "Hope you are staying safe and warm."

She never heard back.

His father was the first in the family to get the news. Distraught, he called his daughter Larissa, who accused him of lying.

"My reaction was to be mad at the bearer of bad news," Larissa recalled. "It was like an alternate reality."

A memorial service was held in January at the Brooks School. By May 2017, three black stars had been engraved on the iconic white marble Memorial Wall in the agency's lobby denoting the deaths of Whitney, Hoke and Delemarre. But their names were not calligraphed into the agency's Book of Honor — which sits open on a shelf encased in glass below the wall — because their affiliation with the agency is still considered secret. A few months later, the secret got out when the New York Times revealed their links to Langley.

The Whitneys wanted Alexi buried at Arlington, as he'd requested in his will. As they waited for the cemetery to grant permission, they contacted Pompeo, then the CIA director.

"Mr. Whitney, if you request a waiver, you have my full support," Pompeo wrote to Whitney's father.

Months later, the family got its wish — and the coordinates to their son's gravesite.

Final goodbye

After a U.S. flag was folded and given to Whitney's mother, the mourners hugged and tucked away their programs, featuring a photo of Alexi as a child clutching a toy gun with a hat concealing his face. A handful of thickly bearded men walked to the nearby gravesites of Hoke and Delemarre, where they lightly tapped the backs of their headstones.

Then, the Whitneys walked alone to gravesite 11847 in Section 60. They knelt down and took one last look at the cremation box, its top engraved with his monogram: GWA.

NATION

Chaos, quarreling, protest mark beginning of hearing

By MARK SHERMAN
AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Quarreling and confusion disrupted the start of the Senate's confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on Tuesday, with Democrats trying to block the proceedings over documents withheld by the White House while protesters interrupted the session in a persistent display of opposition.

In his opening remarks released ahead of delivery, Kavanaugh sought to tamp down the controversy over his nomination, which would likely shift the closely divided court to the right. He promised to be a "team player" if confirmed, declaring that he would be a "pro-law judge" who would not decide cases based on his personal views.

But Democrats raised objections from the moment Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, gavels the committee to order. They want to review 100,000 documents about Kavanaugh's record being withheld by the White House as well as some 42,000 documents released to the committee on a confidential basis on the eve of the hearing, along with others not sought by Republicans on the committee.

For more than an hour, senators sparred while protesters repeatedly shouted at them.

"We have not been given an opportunity to have a meaningful hearing on this nominee," said Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., made several motions to adjourn, saying if the confirmation continued, "this process will be tainted and stained forever."

Grassley denied multiple re-

quests to postpone, defending the document production as the most open in history. He said the chaotic scene was something he'd "never gone through" in 15 past confirmation hearings.

More than two dozen protesters, shouting one by one, disrupted the hearing at several points

and were removed by police.

"This is a mockery and a travesty of justice," shouted one woman.

"Cancel Brett Kavanaugh!"

Others shouted

against the

president

or to pro-

teet abor-

tion access.

"Senators, we need to stop this!" called out one.

Struggling to speak over protesters, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said, "These people are so out of line, they shouldn't be in the dog-gone room." As patience thinned and tempers flared, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, denounced what he called the "mob rule."

As for the documents, Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., quipped that senators would have had to read 7,000 pages an hour over-night just to review those dropped Monday evening.

The panel's top Democrat, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, of California, sought to provide context for the frustration coming from her side of the aisle.

"These are very unique circum-

stances. Not only is the coun-

try deeply divided politically, we also find ourselves with a president who faces his own serious problems," she said referring to the investigations of top administration officials. "So it's this backdrop that this nominee comes into."

With majority Republicans appearing united, it's doubtful the hearings will affect the eventual confirmation of President Donald Trump's nominee. But they will likely become a rallying cry for both parties just two months before the midterm elections. The White House sent out a summary of how many times Democratic senators tried to halt the session with motions and questions, while Republican campaign officials denounced Democrats as "grandstanding" and "pandering" to the "resistance base" of voters.

Kavanaugh sat silently, occasionally sipping water and taking notes on senators' points. He was invited to introduce his parents, wife and children, who sat through much of the outbusts before being escorted out of the room. Also present were outgoing White House counsel Don McGahn and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein.

In prepared opening remarks, Kavanaugh declared he would be even-handed in his approach to the law.

"A good judge must be an umpire, a neutral and impartial arbiter who favors no litigant or policy," Kavanaugh said. "I would always strive to be a team player on the Team of Nine."

The Supreme Court is often thought of as nine separate judges, rather than a team. And on the most contentious cases, the court tends to split into conservative and liberal sides. But justices often say they seek consensus,



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

A protester holds up a sign at the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh on Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

Clinton's impeachment.

As a young lawyer, Kavanaugh worked for Justice Anthony Kennedy, whom he would replace. Kennedy retired at the end of July; Trump's first nominee, Neil Gorsuch, was a Kennedy law clerk the same year as Kavanaugh.

Questioning of Kavanaugh will begin Wednesday, and votes in committee and on the Senate floor could occur this month. Kavanaugh could be on the bench when the court begins its new term on Oct. 1.

Grassley has called Kavanaugh "one of the most qualified nominees ever picked for the court." The American Bar Association has given Kavanaugh its highest rating, well-qualified.

and they like to focus on how frequently they reach unanimous decisions.

Kavanaugh, 53, has served

for the past 12 years on the federal appeals court in Washington, which is considered the second-most important court after the Supreme Court. His conservative

record includes a dissenting opinion last year that would have denied immediate access to an abortion for an immigrant teenager in federal custody.

Kavanaugh worked in key White House positions when George W. Bush was president and was a member of independent counsel Kenneth Starr's legal team that investigated President Bill Clinton in the late 1990s, leading to

bid days after his indictment. Both seats appear likely to remain in GOP hands, but the charges have raised Democratic hopes.

A spokeswoman for Sessions declined to comment, and the White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump did not have any public events Monday. He briefly exited the White House to a waiting motorcade, but then went back inside without going anywhere.

Trump's tweet drew a scolding from Sen. Ben Sasse, a Nebraska Republican who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"The United States is not some banana republic with a two-tiered system of justice — one for the majority party and one for the minority party," Sasse said in a statement. "These two men have been charged with crimes because of evidence, not because of who the President was when the investiga-

tions began. Instead of commenting on ongoing investigations and prosecutions, the job of the president of the United States is to defend the Constitution and protect the impartial administration of justice."

Trump has previously pressed Sessions to investigate his perceived enemies and has accused Sessions of failing to take control of the Justice Department. Trump has also repeatedly complained publicly and privately over Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the federal investigation into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia because he'd worked on Trump's campaign.

Some of the issues Trump has raised have either already been examined or are being investigated.

Trump says Sessions' DOJ has put GOP in midterm jeopardy

By CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Showing his disregard for the Justice Department's independence, President Donald Trump tweeted that federal indictments against two Republican congressmen placed the GOP in midterm election jeopardy.

Trump again attacked Attorney General Jeff Sessions in the tweet, suggesting that the Justice Department considers politics when making decisions: "Obama era investigations, of two very popular Republican Congressmen were brought to a well-publicized charge, just ahead of the Mid-Terms, by the Jeff Sessions Justice Department. Two easy wins now in doubt because there is not enough time. Good job Jeff..."

Trump has frequently suggested

he views the Justice Department less as a law enforcement agency and more as a department that is supposed to do his personal and political bidding. Still, investigators are never supposed to take into account the political affiliations of the people they investigate.

Trump did not name the Republican congressmen, but he was apparently referring to the first two Republicans to endorse him in the GOP presidential primaries. Both were indicted on separate

charges last month: Rep. Duncan Hunter, of California, on charges that included spending campaign funds for personal expenses and Rep. Chris Collins, of New York, on insider trading. Both have proclaimed their innocence.

The Hunter investigation began in June 2016, according to the indictment. The indictment into Collins lays out behavior from 2017. He was also under investigation by congressional ethics officials.

Hunter has not exited his race, while Collins ended his re-elect-

Sen. Ben Sasse

R-Neb.

The United States is not some banana republic with a two-tiered system of justice — one for the majority party and one for the minority party. — one for the majority party and one for the minority party.

NATION

Gordon expected to hit Gulf Coast as a hurricane

BY JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Coastal residents from Florida to Louisiana hustled to prepare for a deluge as Tropical Storm Gordon grew stronger on a path to hit the central U.S. Gulf Coast as a hurricane Tuesday night.

Boaters evacuated to safe harbors, motorists left barrier islands and homeowners looked over yards that could soon be submerged in seawater. A number of schools closed off classes, and red no-swimming flags flew along the shore as waves kicked up from the approaching storm.

Pensacola Water Safety Capt. Jake Wilson told WEAR-TV that the strong wind is bringing a lateral current "where it's just going to pull you down the beach." A hurricane warning was put into effect for the mouth of the Pearl River in Mississippi to the Alabama-Florida border. The National Hurricane Center is predicting a "life-threatening" storm surge along parts of the central Gulf Coast, and as much as 8 inches of rain could fall in some parts of the Gulf states through late Thursday as the tropical weather moves over the lower Mississippi Valley.

By early Tuesday morning, the storm was centered 230 miles east-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River, with sustained winds of 65 mph, forecasters said. It was moving relatively

quickly, at about 17 mph.

A storm surge warning has been issued for the area stretching from Shell Beach, La., to Dauphin Island, Ala. The warning means there is danger of life-threatening inundation. The region could see rising waters of 3 feet to 5 feet.

"The deepest water will occur along the immediate coast near

the east of the landfall location, where the surge will be accompanied by large waves," the center said.

Pat Landry

Landry House Bed & Breakfast owner, Grand Isle, La.

state of emergency Monday and said 200 National Guard troops will be deployed to southeastern Louisiana. In Mississippi, Gov. Phil Bryant declared a state of emergency, as well, and said state resources are being mobilized.

Pat Landry, who owns the Landry House Bed & Breakfast on Louisiana's Grand Isle, said late Monday night that he was trying to pick up everything low in the yard in preparation for the storm surge.

Grand Isle Mayor David Campardelle called for a voluntary

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state of emergency Monday and said 200 National Guard troops will be deployed to southeastern Louisiana. In Mississippi, Gov. Phil Bryant declared a state of emergency, as well, and said state resources are being mobilized.

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Grand Isle Mayor David Campardelle called for a voluntary



JOHN FITZHUGH, THE (BILOXI, MISS.) SUN HERALD/AP

Boats make their way Monday across Biloxi Back Bay in Biloxi, Miss., evacuating as Tropical Storm Gordon intensifies.

evacuation of the barrier island. The mayor noted the ongoing construction on Highway 1, the lone road that connects Grand Isle to the rest of the state, and said it could cause "severe problems" for people evacuating.

"If you leave, you have to leave before the road floods," Landry said.

At Job's Gas and Grill on Grand Isle, cashier Emily Dorothy said they made sure the generator was ready to provide power if the electricity goes out.

She said many of the locals, herself included, were planning to stay through the storm, but many visitors who'd come in for the Labor Day weekend were heading out of town.

"Everybody is just waiting it out

to see what is going to happen," she said.

Gordon formed into a tropical storm near the Florida Keys early Monday, lashing the southern part of the state with heavy rains and high winds before moving into the Gulf of Mexico.

The storm's predicted track had shifted slightly east as of Monday evening, meaning Louisiana is currently just outside the area under the hurricane warning.

Still, the southeastern part of the state remains under a tropical storm warning, and residents need to be prepared for the storm to shift west, Edwards said.

"This storm has every possibility to track further in our direction," Edwards said during a news conference Monday evening.

Franklin's family says eulogy offensive

BY DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The late Aretha Franklin's family said Monday that it found an Atlanta pastor's eulogy delivered at the "Queen of Soul's" funeral last week to be offensive and distasteful.

The eulogist, the Rev. Jasper Williams Jr., was criticized for a political address that described children being in a home without a father as "abortion after birth" and said black lives do not matter unless blacks stop killing each other. Franklin's funeral was on Friday.

"He spoke for 50 minutes and at no time did he properly eulogize her," said Vaughn Franklin, the late singer's nephew, who said he was delivering a statement for the family.

Franklin said his aunt never asked Williams to eulogize her, since she didn't talk about plans for her own funeral. The family selected Williams because he has spoken at other family memorials in the past, most prominently at the funeral for Franklin's father, minister and civil rights activist C.L. Franklin, 34 years ago.

Williams had not backed down from anything he said at the funeral and said he respects the family's opinion. "I understand it," he said. "I regret it. But I'm sorry they had that way."

Williams told The Associated Press in a phone interview Sunday he felt his sermon was

appropriate at Franklin's funeral. He felt his timing was right, especially after other speakers spoke on the civil rights movement and President Donald Trump.

"I was trying to show that the movement now is moving and should move in a different direction," he said. "... What we need to do is create respect among ourselves. Aretha is the person with that song 'R-E-S-P-E-C-T' that is laid out for us, and what we need to be as a race within ourselves. We need to show each other that. We need to show each other respect. That was the reason why I did it."

Besides a social media uproar, Williams had received resistance at the funeral itself. Singer Stevie Wonder yelled out "black lives matter" after the pastor said, "No, black lives do not matter" during his eulogy.

Williams had minimized the Black Lives Matter movement because of black-on-black crime. "Black lives must not matter until black people start respecting black lives and stop killing ourselves."

He also said "there are not fathers in the home no more" and that a black woman cannot raise a black boy to be a man. Some people suggested that was disrespectful of Aretha Franklin, a single mother of four boys.

His eulogy "caught the entire family off guard," Vaughn Franklin said. The family



PAUL SANCY/AP

The Rev. Jasper Williams Jr. delivers the eulogy during the funeral service for Aretha Franklin at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit on Friday.

had not discussed what Williams would say in advance, he said. "It has been very, very distasteful." He said it was unfortunate because everyone else who participated in the ceremony was very respectful.

Election security bill stalls

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just two months before the midterm elections, bipartisan legislation to try to prevent foreign hacking into U.S. election systems is stalled in Congress as the White House and some Republicans worry it could exert too much federal control over the states.

Supporters of the bill say the delay could embolden Russia, which targeted election infrastructure in at least 21 states in 2016.

A committee vote on the bipartisan bill was abruptly canceled two weeks ago after objections from some Republican senators and the states they represent. Also, Republicans and Democrats who are supporting the bill say they don't know when — or if — it will be taken up again in the few remaining weeks Congress is in session before the midterms.

The delay has some concerned that Congress could punt on the only piece of legislation that is designed to fix what went wrong in 2016 — and to prevent Russia or other countries from trying again. There is no evidence that the Russian targeting of state election systems was successful or changed any votes, but lawmakers, intelligence officials and elections experts say they believe Russia will return in 2018 and beyond with more sophisticated tools.

It also demonstrates Congress' struggle to develop a cohesive response to the Russian interference — especially as President Donald Trump has at times questioned whether it even happened.

The White House issued a lukewarm statement on the election security bill, neither endorsing nor opposing it but saying that "if Congress should choose to continue to pursue" the legislation, they want to ensure that it does not duplicate ongoing federal efforts to help states or violate the principles of federalism.

"We cannot support legislation with inappropriate mandates or that moves power or funding from the states to Washington for the planning and operation of elections," said White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters.

The bill was negotiated over the last year by Republican Sen. James Lankford, of Oklahoma, and Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar, of Minnesota. Lankford says the White House did not block the bill but that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "had concerns" after hearing from states and other interests that suddenly realized the bill was moving forward. Klobuchar similarly said concerns came from "leadership on the Republican side."

McConnell's office would not comment on his involvement with the bill or whether he heard from states or other groups about concerns.

NATION



Gus & Gus in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

BY PATRICIA TALORICO
The News Journal

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — Regular visitors to downtown Rehoboth Beach's three popular Thrasher's French fries establishments know better than to ask for ketchup. Piping hot fries, cooked in peanut oil, are famously served with only salt and apple cider vinegar. No ketchup. Not ever.

That's how it's been since the concession stand was founded on the Ocean City, Md., boardwalk in 1929. There are no plans to deviate from this Eastern Shore tradition at its resort town locations in Ocean City and in Rehoboth Beach and Bethany Beach, Del.

Not all tourists know or even care about Thrasher's history. They just want ketchup. And that has sparked something of a condiment clash with some of Thrasher's neighboring businesses, particularly Gus & Gus Place.

If you haven't purchased anything from Gus & Gus, an iconic eatery offering burgers, fried chicken and corn dogs on Rehoboth's milelong boardwalk since 1956, don't ask for ketchup.

They're not giving away or even selling the condiment to people who are not their customers.

Still, that hasn't stopped nearby Thrasher's patrons from demanding ketchup, trying to sneak squirts from Gus & Gus' ketchup bottles or attempting to walk off with ketchup packets.

It's become such a problem, the cash-only, family-owned business put up a sign near the counter: "Ketchup is for Gus & Gus food only. No exceptions!"

It hasn't worked.

"There are people who come over and ask nicely and ask if they can buy some (ketchup) and we tell them no," said Bill Svolis, 47, who has grown up in the business founded in 1956 by his father, Gus. "People pretty much cuss at us a lot. It happens almost every day."

On Aug. 25 at dinnertime, a Thrasher's customer was so angry he couldn't have any of Gus & Gus' ketchup he yelled at employees and wouldn't leave the old-school eatery.

THE BIG SQUEEZE

French fry tradition
sparks ketchup clash
on Eastern Shore



Thrasher's French Fries in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

Rehoboth Beach police were called, but Svolis says he's not sure if they ever showed up. A message left with Rehoboth police was not immediately returned.

A diner named Jeff B., of North Bethesda, Md., complained in a July 11 Yelp review about not being able to use Gus & Gus' ketchup.

"They refused to give my 5-year-old daughter ketchup because they saw one person in our party bought Thrasher's fries, but we just spent 50 dollars worth of food from them. It's ketchup. It probably cost them 5 cents a packet..." he wrote.

Not exactly true, Svolis said. All that free ketchup adds up.

"Ketchup, it ain't cheap," he said, adding that he pays \$30 a case for cans of ketchup that are used to refill the eatery's squeeze bottles. On the WebstaurantStore website, a case of 1,000 Heinz Ketchup packets costs \$29.99.

Gus & Gus Place isn't anti-ketchup; just the opposite. At its walk-up window and sit-down dining room that hugs the southern part of the boardwalk at the corner of Wilmington Avenue, it gladly offers bottles and ketchup packets for all the foods it sells, including its own peanut oil cooked French fries.

The business just won't give it away.

Svolis said ketchup begging and thievery isn't new; it's been rampant for years.

"It's not just us; it's every business in town," he said. "It happens in Ocean City. It's been going on for a long time."

Alex Morari, manager of Louie's Pizza at 11 Rehoboth Ave., which is close to two other Thrasher's French fries stands, said he has the same, ongoing ketchup problem as Gus & Gus Place.

He estimates between 20 and 30 people a day come into the family-owned business asking for free ketchup.

"I let people understand right away, 'I have my customers and Thrasher's has theirs,'" Morari said. "I have my own fries. I'll gladly serve them ketchup free when they buy my fries."

At Louie's Pizza, a Rehoboth landmark for more than 40 years, Morari said he now charges people \$1 for a 4-ounce cup of ketchup.

If anyone objects, he lays it out for them. "I say, 'This is a business. I need to make money. I say, I'm not the Red Cross.'"

Svolis said he has talked to a Thrasher's manager at the 101 S. Boardwalk location near Gus & Gus Place about the condominium conflicts, but they don't plan to offer ketchup.

Logan Kline, manager of Thrasher's French fries on Rehoboth Avenue, said Thrasher's is following a business model: No deviation from original procedures or original recipes.

And that means: No ketchup.

"It's a company tradition since 1929," Kline said. "Some people do have a problem with it. They have their own opinions. Some people argue with us. It's a rare occurrence that people get super, super angry. I just say, 'Oh, I'm sorry. This is the tradition.'"

Svolis isn't looking to get into a food war with any Rehoboth business. Gus & Gus Place started off the summer on a sad note. Family patriarch Gus Svolis, a fixture in the seasonal business for more than six decades, suffered a stroke in the eatery on June 29 while sitting at a table with his sons.

"He was almost on his way out," Bill Svolis said. The elder Svolis, who recently turned 88, was hospitalized in Philadelphia and is now recovering in Lewes. "He is making small steps," his son said.

And while Svolis said there has been talk among family members about Gus & Gus Place selling ketchup to Thrasher's customers, it's probably not going to happen.

Like Thrasher's, Gus Svolis is very firm about maintaining his own time-honored traditions.

"The old man, he refused to do it," Bill Svolis said. "He said, 'We're not here to sell ketchup.'"



PHOTOS BY JASON MINTO/THE NEWS JOURNAL/AP

Gus & Gus, an iconic family-owned eatery on the Rehoboth Beach, Del., boardwalk, will not provide ketchup except to its paying customers.



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NATION

Safe spaces

Patchwork of programs serve child sex-trafficking victims

By JAMIE STENGLE
AND EMILY SCHMALL
Associated Press

DALLAS — Not long after the last time Cecilia Roberts was sent to an Atlanta hotel to be sold for sex, the then-17-year-old was in a residential facility for girls like her, recovering from the trauma of trafficking as she helped prosecutors convict two adults she had turned to when she needed a place to stay.

Roberts spent about a year in a 15-bed residential facility for girls at Wellspring Living in Georgia, one of a number of places established in response to what experts call a growing population of child sex-trafficking victims.

Now 24 and working in purchasing for a health care system, Roberts said living in the safe house allowed her to focus on her education — and to heal.

"For the first time, I'm in a room full of people that I feel like understood me, and I didn't have to explain myself," said Roberts, who returned to Wellspring for the job training program after moving out of the facility. "As a child, it was all that I needed — just peace, and a little bit of attention and love. That's all that I was looking for."

The need for long-term and specialized care to treat child sex-trafficking victims is increasing. For decades, rescued children wound up being arrested and thrown into the juvenile justice system. But that's changed in recent years, as states have moved to steer victims toward treatment.

Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia have eliminated criminal liability for minors, with all but one state making the change since 2010, according to Shared Hope International, which works to prevent the conditions that lead to sex trafficking. Experts say some states are reluctant to follow suit due to a lack of services for the children.

"We need more safe spaces where survivors can heal and re-enter their communities," said Rebecca Epstein, executive director of the Center on Poverty and In-

equality at Georgetown Law.

It's impossible to quantify how many children are sold for sex in the U.S., but Polaris, which operates the National Human Trafficking Hotline, said the number of cases it's handled in which it's known that the sex-trafficking victim is a minor has more than doubled over the last five years, from 1,020 in 2012 to 2,495 in 2017.

Advocates say specialized residential care with targeted treatment in a home-like setting can be good for victims, but they also say it would be best if the response were tailored to each child.

"In the ideal world, we'd have a range of services. So that the kid who liked the long-term equine therapy could be treated there. Or the kid who didn't want to be in any kind of shelter but wanted to get some kind of support in a foster setting or their family home could have that," said Carol Smolenski, executive director of ECPAT-USA, an anti-trafficking policy organization. "In an ideal world, there'd be a

continuum of types of services, but we're nowhere near that."

Just last week, the first girls began to arrive at the Refuge Ranch, a new 50-acre residential community of four-person cottages near Austin.

The ranch offers trauma-informed care, medical treatment, a school program and group and individual therapy for girls ages 11 to 19, according to founder and CEO Brooke Crowder.

The girls will have access to horses and pets. They will be able to take yoga and art classes, or work in a garden. Those over 16 can apply for paid internships to learn job skills.

The ranch was built entirely from donations. While government entities will refer girls to the program and pay for them to stay there, Crowder says that only one of those contracts so far will completely cover what it costs to care for them. Crowder expects to have at least nine children living at the ranch by the end of the year, with plans

to eventually house 48 girls.

Kids who are vulnerable to trafficking include those who are homeless or runaways, or who have been neglected or abused. They can end up being trafficked by boyfriends or adults they view as parent figures.

"Whatever you need, they'll be that person," said Alison Franklin, who fell under the control of a sex trafficker in her 20s after being sexually abused as a child and a runaway in her teens. "Some of them are so adept at this that you might not even have vulnerability or a need and they'll create it."

Now 43, she mentors teen victims in Texas and says the specialized approach at the Refuge Ranch, where the average stay is expected to be a year and a half, will make a difference in their lives.

"Healing from this takes so much time and effort," she said. "For them to have a safe place that honors them for that long is just amazing."



DANNY KARNIK/AP



Above: Dove tiles hand-decorated with messages are on the walls at The Refuge, a new facility near Austin, Texas.

Left: Cecilia Roberts poses for a photo inside her home in Lithonia, Ga. Roberts went to a residential facility for girls in Georgia.



ERIC GAY/AP



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BUSINESS/WEATHER

20-hour airline routes becoming a reality

By ANGUS WHITLEY
Bloomberg

The goal of a nonstop flight from Sydney to London, half the way around the planet — took a leap forward as the world's top plane makers convinced Qantas Airways they can make the 20-hour route a reality.

A year after Qantas Chief Executive Officer Alan Joyce publicly challenged Boeing and Airbus to design a plane capable of making a viable direct flight from Sydney to London or New York, he said the manufacturers have succeeded.

"We're now comfortable that we think we have vehicles that could do it," Joyce said in an interview in Qantas' central Sydney offices.

Project Sunrise, as Qantas calls it, involves configuring an aircraft so that it can fly about 300 passengers and their luggage

"We're now comfortable that we think we have vehicles that could do it."

Alan Joyce
Qantas Airways CEO

farther than any regular service to date, with fuel in hand for unexpected headwinds and emergencies. If the first routes prove viable in 2022, direct connections from major cities in the Americas, Europe and Africa to Australia could follow.

Qantas and the manufacturers are dreaming up cabin interiors geared toward surviving such marathon flights. There's scope to incorporate bunks, child care facilities and even somewhere to work out, Joyce said.

"We're challenging ourselves to think outside the box," he said.

"Would you have the space used for other activities — exercise, bar, creche, sleeping areas and berths? Boeing and Airbus have been actually quite creative in coming up with ideas."

Qantas is sizing up the long-range Airbus A350 against Boeing's 777X, and executives from both manufacturers flew to Sydney to make presentations. Joyce plans to place an order next year and says neither supplier has its nose in front. Competition for the contract could help Qantas get the design and price it wants.

"We are looking at all the op-

tions to meet the Project Sunrise requirements but can't comment on the details of our discussions with Qantas," Airbus said in an email. Boeing said, "We are confident that we can meet the customer's requirements in terms of range and capability."

Airbus in April gave a glimpse of the future when it unveiled at a Hamburg, Germany, exhibition the sleeping modules that could slot into an aircraft's cargo compartments. The berths will initially be available on the A330 in 2020, and potentially on the A350, the company said.

Joyce's ambitious plan follows a three-year turnaround that resurrected a national airline almost on its knees. He's attempting to build an unprecedented network of superlong routes just as the industry's notorious boom-and-bust cycle may be heading downhill.

Earnings, profit margins and

returns on invested capital at airlines worldwide this year will fall to the lowest level since 2014 as higher fuel prices bite, according to the International Air Transport Association.

Qantas, after reporting record annual profits last week, said its fuel bill will jump 21 percent to about \$2.9 billion in the year through June 2019. That's an advantage for more fuel-efficient aircraft such as Boeing's 787 Dreamliner, which help the economics of long-range services.

EXCHANGE RATES

Million U.S. dollars

Euro costs (Sept. 5)	\$1.1851
British buys (Sept. 5)	0.8438
British pound (Sept. 5)	1.1851
Japanese yen (Sept. 5)	108.00
South Korean won (Sept. 5)	1,086.60

Commercial

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound (Pound)	1.2835
Canada (Dollar)	1.3199
China (Yuan)	0.1455
Denmark (Krone)	6.4581
Egypt (Pound)	17.9110
Euro (Euro)	1.1543
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8496
Hungary (Forint)	283.81
Israel (Shekel)	3.6230
Japan (Yen)	111.23
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3029
Norway (Krone)	8.4073
Poland (Zlote)	5.1270
Poland (Zlote)	3.73
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7519
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3717
South Korea (Won)	1,119.86
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9756
Thailand (Baht)	32.83
United Kingdom (Pound)	6.8996

(Million exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities. Rates for the United States, Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For example, the rate of 1.1543 means that 1 euro (purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. The rate of 0.9756 is the rate of one British pound provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies converted into U.S. dollars, except for the pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.92
3-month bill	2.06
30-year bond	3.01

75 hotel workers arrested at Calif. Labor Day protest

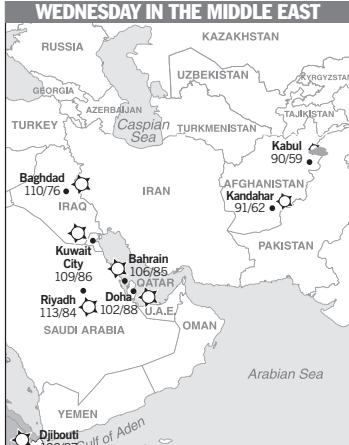
Associated Press



LIZ HAFALIA, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/AP
San Francisco supervisor Rafael Mandelman is arrested with hotel workers in front of J.W. Marriott's Westin St. Francis hotel Monday in San Francisco.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Frazz

Dilbert

Pearls Before Swine

Non Sequitur

Candorville

Carpe Diem

Beetle Bailey

Bizarro

Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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54						55		56			
57						58		59			

ACROSS

- 1 Pike or perch
- 5 Arcing tennis shot
- 8 A/C measures
- 12 "Dedicated to the Love"
- 13 Where Lux. is
- 14 Country's McEntire
- 15 Scrawl on a wall
- 17 The yoke's on them
- 18 Episodic TV show
- 19 Facing
- 21 Trio after R
- 22 Back talk
- 23 Cacophony
- 26 Verb for you
- 28 Aquarium favorite
- 31 Sci-fi fleet
- 33 Nest occupier
- 35 Beloved
- 36 Biblical tower
- 38 O'Hare's airport code
- 40 Busy insect
- 41 Frozen desserts
- 43 Be sick
- 45 Back down
- 47 At hand
- 51 Saharan
- 52 New member

DOWN

- 54 Refer to
- 55 Edge
- 56 Acute
- 57 Piano pieces?
- 58 Resort
- 59 Taxpayer IDs
- 16 Greek cheese
- 20 Feedbag morsel
- 23 Tweak a soundtrack
- 24 "tree falls ..."
- 25 Aristocrats
- 27 Swelled head
- 29 Scooted
- 30 Illustrations
- 32 Breaks away
- 34 Baby sitter, often
- 37 Actor Cariou
- 39 God, in Grenoble
- 42 Mixes
- 44 Doesn't have
- 45 Podroom prop
- 46 One of HOMES
- 48 Numbered rds.
- 49 Existed
- 50 Desires
- 53 Wee bite

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	L	A	B	V	P	S	C	O	S	T
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R	O	S	E	H	I	P	R	E	A	M
E	N	O	O	L	E	G	N	O	M	E
							T	E	A	
							A	B	I	C
S	I	T	A	R	S	A	S	H	I	M
I	D	O	L	P	I	G	I	M	A	N
T	O	O	L	B	A	R	S	P	O	O
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P	U	S	H	Y	L	I	F	E	E	
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S	T	E	P	A	G	E	U	S	E	
T	O	M	S	X	E	D				

9-5

CRYPTOQUIP

U L M R U H Q K I M T R J Q N R Q J Y
 A Y R L M R T Z M G G Y I M N J H T T
 R U H J O G W - T L M Z Y I N H J M K
 O T K M G I T ? M R H K K A J O I W Y .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I KNEW IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FINISH THE FOOTRACE IN FIRST PLACE, BUT SECOND BECKONED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals W

NATION

Sensors on new Calif. bridge to record quake data

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — A replacement bridge under construction at the nation's second-busiest port isn't just a crucial route for cargo trucks and Southern California commuters; it's a concrete-and-steel science experiment for engineers and seismologists.

The new bridge, which will stretch 8,800 feet over the Port of Long Beach, is being built with about 75 seismic sensors that will measure the forces imparted on the span when one of several nearby faults set off an earthquake. It will replace the Gerald Desmond Bridge, though it's unclear if it will retain that name.

The new bridge is slated to open next year.

"New bridges don't come along very often, so it's exciting," said John Parrish, head of the California Geological Survey. His agency's Strong Motion Instrumentation Program will be among those crunching the information the sensors capture that will be added to the state's database of

earthquake knowledge.

California's bridges and other infrastructure have been outfitted with quake sensors called accelerometers since the 1970s. The eastern span replacement of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge that opened in 2013 has more than 200.

But the building of the new Long Beach span, south of Los Angeles, marks the first time the sensors have been incorporated into the design of a California bridge from day one, said Duane L. Kenagy, an engineer and the port's interim deputy executive director.

The original bridge has taken a "pretty good beating" since it was built in 1968, Kenagy said. Evidence of that is the netting — called "diapers" — recently placed underneath to capture hunks of concrete that regularly break away. The roadway is "reaching the end of its natural life" but is considered safe for traffic until the new bridge opens, he said.

About 15 percent of all containerized cargo entering the U.S.



Traffic moves on the old Gerald Desmond Bridge next to its replacement bridge under construction in Long Beach, Calif.

JAE C. HONG/AP

travels over the span every day, and it's a key artery for motorists traveling between the city of Long Beach and San Pedro, a working-class waterfront neighborhood on the southern edge of Los Angeles.

Its nearly \$1.5 billion replacement is historic for the built-in seismology and because it's the first cable-stayed vehicle bridge in California. Cable-stayed bridges are distinct from more common suspension bridges in that

the main span deck is entirely supported by cables connected to the twin 515-foot towers. It makes for a particularly sturdy design that's been tested to withstand powerful earthquakes or a terrorist bombing.

"You just can't knock one of these things down by knocking out one or two cables," Parrish said.

The design, popular in Asia and parts of Europe, is catching on in the U.S. as larger construction

machinery and new high-tech materials make them cheaper and easier to build.

Designed to last 100 years, the new bridge has a higher clearance for larger cargo ships and elastic "points of isolation" that enable segments to move independently without damaging other sections. Joints and bearings are designed to break under stress and are easily replaceable to get the bridge reopened quickly after a violent shaking shuts it down.

Calif. Republican AG nominee faces ethics panel

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Republicans' nominee for California state attorney general is facing an ethics tribunal just two months before the November election.

Former Judge Steven Bailey is accused of using his office to further his statewide campaign, improperly accepting gifts and steering business to a firm where his son worked — all in violation of judicial ethics. Bailey served as an El Dorado County judge from 2009 through the end of August 2017.

Bailey said the allegations "simply lack merit" and blames political gamesmanship. Three special masters from the Commission on Judicial Performance were set to begin considering them Tuesday.

The hearing in Sacramento creates another hurdle as Bailey tries to unseat Democratic incumbent Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who was appointed to fill a vacancy last year.

No decision is expected from the commission until well after the Nov. 6 election. Bailey eventually could be publicly admonished even though he is no longer a judge, but not disqualified from the attorney general's race.

Judge Bailey initially expressed interest in running for attorney general because of the office's recent trend toward hyperpartisan politics to the det-

eriment of public safety," James Murphy, one of Bailey's attorneys, said in a statement to The Associated Press. "We question if this inquiry is nothing more than a politically motivated and brazen attempt to sabotage his campaign."

He denied that Bailey's actions interfered with his judicial impartiality and blamed inadvertent error for several of the allegations, including that Bailey provided a written testimonial for a political survey company.

The commission is deciding whether to discipline Bailey over claims of conduct "that brings the judicial office into disrepute" and "willful misconduct in office" — the worst possible charge and enough that it could potentially have prompted his removal were he still a judge.

"We question if this inquiry is nothing more than a politically motivated and brazen attempt to sabotage his campaign."

James Murphy
attorney for Steven Bailey

ment in his campaign. He said the monitoring company was approved by the county probation department, as required by law, and that he arranged to have a second, competing company also provide monitoring services.

Bailey also is accused of accepting hundreds of dollars in gifts between 2009 and 2012, including nearly \$350 from a Placer County attorney.

The commission also alleges that he ordered a defendant to pay \$140 in restitution in 2009 after a letter signed by the judge's son said the man owed that amount for electronic monitoring.

Bailey said in response that he followed the ethics advice of other judges that he did not have to routinely disclose the relationship with his son, and that the son was a "professional acquaintance" with no real involvement.

Bailey said in response that he followed the ethics advice of other judges that he did not have to routinely disclose the relationship with his son, and that the son was a "professional acquaintance" with no real involvement.

He also denied that he was showing bias by telling another judge in response to a compliment about a shirt that he got it from a "gay guy" and that "gays really know how to dress."

The hearing is expected to last until Sept. 14 before one appellate judge and two superior court judges appointed by the state Supreme Court.

The special masters then have about 60 days to report their findings to the commission. Both sides may respond to that report in writing and an oral argument before the commission.

Child killed by float during Colo. parade

WINDSOR, Colo. — Colorado police said a boy, 8, died after being struck by a float during a Labor Day parade.

The incident happened during the Windsor Harvest Festival parade about 20 miles southeast of Fort Collins.

Authorities and witnesses said the boy was a participant on a church-sponsored float, and the incident occurred near the end of the parade route.

Todd Vess, of Windsor, Severance Fire Rescue, said it wasn't immediately clear whether he fell from the float or was walking beside the float when he was struck.

Sketch released in case of missing Fla. boy, 2

LARGO, Fla. — Police have released the sketch of a man they're looking for in the case of a missing Florida toddler.

The boy's mother, 21, told investigators she and Jordan Beliveau, 2, were walking Saturday night when she accepted a ride from a stranger named "Antwan" in a white Toyota Camry. She told them he punched her in the face and knocked her unconscious. She said the boy and the man were gone when she woke up hours later in some nearby woods.

Largo police Maj. Stephen Slaughter called her a "struggling single mom."

From The Associated Press

NATION

Sexual harassment complaints strain agencies

BY SUSAN HAIGH
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — A wave of sexual harassment complaints that accompanied the #MeToo movement is straining many of the state and local offices tasked with policing workplace discrimination of all kinds.

Places such as New York City and Massachusetts have added resources to deal with the surge in complaints, but human rights agencies elsewhere say their small staffs are struggling to keep up with growing caseloads.

In Connecticut, which is on pace to receive nearly twice as many sexual harassment complaints as last year, some lawmakers worry about delays resolving those cases and others involving employment, housing and credit discrimination.

"If someone has gotten up the strength to come forward, I don't want that strength to be dissipated because of a system that's broken," Democratic state Sen. Mae Flexer said.

Flexer pushed unsuccessful legislation this year that would have given the state Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities funding to help fill empty positions, extended the deadline for victims to file complaints and required more companies to provide sexual harassment training.

Connecticut had 158 sexual harassment complaints filed in all of last year. Over the first six months of 2018, CHRO received 131, records show. An agency spokeswoman said the uptick has not gotten to an "onerous level" yet, and that the staff is working hard to get cases out between a year



JAE C. HONG/AP

Protesters gather in January at Grand Park in Los Angeles for a Women's March against sexual violence.

and a year and a half. But Michelle Dumas Keuler acknowledges there's been "a constant decline of staff" over the past decade.

In many places, the complaints began piling up last year, when the movement against sexual harassment and assault took off after allegations against former Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The state offices that enforce laws concerning various types of discrimination differ in their authority and scope of responsibility. For example, Connecticut's

human rights referees can award back pay and damages for emotional distress and attorneys' fees to those employees who choose to use the system. In many states, complainants are required to file first with those agencies even if they eventually bring their case to court — a process that can take years. Numerous cities and counties also have commissions on civil rights, human rights and fair housing.

Connecticut attorney Nina T. Pirrotti, who specializes in employee rights cases, said she has

personally seen an uptick in sexual harassment cases in her law practice since the relatively recent resurgence of the #MeToo movement, which was founded over a decade ago by Tarana Burke, a New York civil rights activist.

"If my experience is any reflection of the larger picture, I would not be surprised if the CHRO has also experienced an increase in the number of sexual harassment cases it processes," she said, adding how there could be an additional strain on CHRO resources particularly in situations where

employees are self-represented, or pro se, and are more likely to remain with the CHRO throughout its investigation, fact-finding and public hearing phases. For employees represented by a lawyer, they often go through just the early stages of processing the complaint with CHRO before dealing with the matter in court or settling it.

In Idaho, a consistent uptick in sexual harassment allegations filed since October has burdened the state's Human Rights Commission, which hasn't seen a staff increase in decades.

"These are very personal and very emotional issues, and an increase in resources is absolutely going to be paramount in the future," said Lourdes Matsumoto, a Boise-based attorney who filed a high-profile discrimination tort claim involving sexual and racial harassment against the Idaho state controller's office last year. She said the increase in complaints reflects a crisis of workplace sexual harassment.

The timing of the flood of new harassment cases has been "particularly bad" for the Maine Human Rights Commission. Executive Director Amy Smeirson said. Even before, the agency was taking nearly two years to issue some decisions because of understaffing, she said.

To handle the workload, tasks are shifted around the small staff, with everyone doing more than one job.

"We would like to be faster. We would like to be faster and better, but without adequate staffing, it's nearly impossible," Smeirson said.

3 decades on, George H.W. Bush's Points of Light still shine

BY DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — Three decades after it was ridiculed and became a punchline on late-night television, former President George H.W. Bush's Points of Light concept is still going strong to the surprise of some, including President Donald Trump.

The phrase, aimed at promoting the former president's vision of volunteerism, was transformed into Point of Light awards given to more than 6,000 individuals and the foundation Points of Light, which promotes volunteerism in 37 countries. This week, Bush, 94, hopes to greet board members and corporate partners during a three-day event that was scheduled to begin Tuesday in Kennebunkport, Maine.

"Points of light" originated in Bush's acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention in 1988. He later likened volunteerism to "a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky."

The media, including comedian Dana Carvey, lampooned the phrase. Bush was undeterred, repeating in his inaugural and State of the Union addresses. He began a daily Point of Light award in 1990, and the foundation expanded the president's vision.

A decade ago, the Points of Light Foundation and HandsOn Network merged to



President George H.W. Bush is surrounded by cheering students from the Independent Living Program in Los Angeles in May 1990.

strengthen efforts to encourage volunteerism at the corporate, nonprofit and individual level. Today, there are more than 5 million volunteers.

The phrase never sat well with Trump, apparently.

"Thousands Points of Light. I never quite got that one. What the hell is that? Has anyone ever figured that one out?" Trump

asked a crowd this summer in Montana.

Neil Bush, son of former President George H.W. Bush and brother of former President George W. Bush, chose not to respond to Trump's biting remarks.

The chairman of the foundation's board, Neil Bush said he's glad his father's "vision" continues to grow and "will have an influence on many, many lives."

On Tuesday, the 6,341st "Daily Point of Light" was presented by Neil Bush to Kathy Hecht, whose "Salute of Service" helps disabled veterans train their own dogs to become service animals to help themselves. If they don't have a dog, then the group will help them find one.

Hecht, of Searsport, Maine, said she was stunned by the recognition.

"We're such a small organization that I was surprised that we ended up on anyone's radar," she said, adding that "to end up getting this award is just wonderful beyond words."

The group has helped more than 150 veterans over the past four years.

The Points of Light Foundation's marching orders come from Bush's words.

"The solution to each problem that confronts us begins with an individual who steps forward and says, 'I can help,'" said Natalie Paquin, the foundation's chief executive officer.

Atlanta-based Points of Light bills itself as the world's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service. Much of its work focuses on working with corporations like Starbucks to encourage their employees to volunteer in local communities.

Last month, Starbucks announced a pilot program in which some employees will work 20 hours and perform community service for 20 hours each week in 13 cities.

WORLD



Scaffolding of a building being demolished collapsed following a powerful typhoon in Osaka, western Japan, on Tuesday.

Powerful typhoon slams Japan; airport flooded

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — A powerful typhoon slammed into western Japan on Tuesday, causing heavy rain to flood the region's main offshore international airport and strong winds to blow a tanker into a bridge, disrupting land and air travel. The storm left at least two people dead.

Jebi was the strongest typhoon to make landfall in Japan since 1993, according to Japan's Kyodo News service.

The storm was heading north across a swath of Japan's main island of Honshu toward the Sea of Japan. It was off the northern coast of Fukui on Tuesday evening with sustained winds of 78 miles per hour and gusts up to 110 mph, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

A man in his 70s died apparently after being blown to the ground from his apartment in Osaka prefecture, while a 71-year-old man died after being buried underneath a storage house that collapsed on him, officials said.

NHK national television said 126 people were injured in the storm.

In the hard-hit city of Osaka, high seas poured into Kansai International Airport, flooding one of its two runways and cargo storage and other facilities, forcing the airport to shut down, said the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

More than 700 flights were canceled, according to Japanese media tallies. High-speed bullet



High waves hit breakwaters at a port of Aki, Kochi prefecture, Japan.

train service was suspended from Tokyo west to Hiroshima.

A 2,591-ton tanker that was mooring slammed into the side of a bridge connecting the airport to the mainland, damaging part of the bridge and the vessel. The tanker's 11 crewmembers were not injured and remained onboard, according to Japan's coast guard.

Elsewhere in Osaka, the Universal Studios Japan theme park and U.S. Consulate were both

closed. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe canceled a scheduled trip to Kyushu, Japan's southernmost main island, to oversee the government's response to the typhoon, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

The typhoon first made landfall on Japan's southwestern island of Shikoku and then again near Kobe on Honshu. Television footage showed fallen tree branches and high seas overflowing onto low-lying areas.

Duterte orders arrest of critic in Congress

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the arrest of one of his fiercest critics in Congress after revoking the senator's amnesty for involvement in unsuccessful military uprisings years ago.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV condemned Duterte's move as illegal and draconian but added that he would not resist arrest. After being advised that Senate leaders would not allow his arrest in the Senate, Trillanes said Tuesday he will heed their advice and stay within the building in a looming standoff.

"We're living basically in a de facto martial law environment of the '70s kind," Trillanes told a throng of journalists and followers, referring to the martial law declared by dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1972, which is regarded as a dark chapter in Philippine history.

Some opposition politicians visited the Senate to show support for Trillanes, 47, a former navy officer who was detained for several years before his election to the Senate for involvement in at least three military uprisings from 2003 to 2007 to protest official corruption.

Trillanes received amnesty under Duterte's predecessor, President Benigno Aquino III. Several young military officers who were detained for joining failed coup attempts and uprisings against the administration of Aquino's predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, were granted amnesties, but only Trillanes' has been voided so far.

Trillanes said his lawyers would petition the Supreme Court "to resolve this madness of Duterte" and fight what he said amounted to a warrantless arrest.

"They're bending the law to be able to do their political objective, which is to persecute the political opposition," Trillanes said.

Opposition Sen. Franklin Drilon said all rebellion- and coup-related cases against Trillanes were dismissed by a court after he was amnestied. He said the govern-



BULIT MARQUEZ/AP

Philippine opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV presides over a committee hearing on Civil Service on Tuesday.

ment could not renew those cases now because it would amount to "double jeopardy," which is forbidden under Philippine law.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque, who is accompanying Duterte on a visit to Israel, denied that the move against Trillanes was political persecution, saying the government was just enforcing the law.

Duterte has openly expressed anger against Trillanes, who has accused him of large-scale corruption and involvement in illegal drugs, allegations the volatile president has repeatedly denied.

Aside from Trillanes, another opposition senator, Leila de Lima, has been detained after being accused by Duterte of involvement in illegal drugs, a crime she has vehemently denied. De Lima, a former human rights commission chief, investigated allegations of links between Duterte and extrajudicial killings when Duterte was mayor of southern Davao city.

Another Duterte critic, Maria Lourdes Sereno, was ousted by fellow justices from the Supreme Court in May after the government alleged that her appointment by Duterte's predecessor was legally flawed and petitioned for her removal.

France set to deploy navy in scallop dispute

Associated Press

talks.

Speaking Tuesday to broadcaster CNEWS, Travert said, "We can't continue like this; we can't carry on having clashes like this."

He added that the French navy is ready to intervene if necessary.

About 35 French boats confronted five British ones, sometimes banging hulls, in international waters off the coast of northern France last week amid tensions over access to scallop fisheries.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

GOP official resigns over racist posts

PA BEAVER — A central Pennsylvania Republican official who referred to black NFL players who knelt during the national anthem as "baboons" in a Facebook post has resigned.

Former Beaver County Republican Committee secretary Carla Maloney resigned Friday in a letter to the committee's chairman. Maloney apologized for her "insensitive" posts and said she would "work to show everyone" who she is.

Maloney made the slur on her personal Facebook account in response to athletes who have knelt during the anthem to protest social injustice. In another post, she said "overpaid ignorant blacks" should "go to Africa."

The Beaver County Republican Committee denounced her comments.

Man riding mower fires at, is struck by police

SC CLIO — South Carolina law officials said local police were investigating a break-in early Monday when they encountered a man on a riding lawn mower across the street. The man approached officers while on the lawn mower and fired at them, police alleged.

Two officers from the Clio police department returned fire, striking the man. He was taken to a local hospital, where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating the incident at the request of the Clio police department.

Moose crowded by people on shore drowns

VT SOUTH HERO — Vermont wildlife officials said a moose drowned in Lake Champlain after people crowded around the animal to take its picture.

Fish and Wildlife Officer Robert Currier told WCAX that the moose swam across the lake from New York to South Hero on Saturday. He said it made it onto land, but was forced back into the water, likely feeling threatened by onlookers. The moose succumbed to exhaustion and drowned.

Currier said people should keep their distance from moose. He said the animals respond to threats by leaving an area or getting aggressive.

City eyes traffic safety after 5 swan deaths

FL LAKELAND — A Florida city is evaluating traffic safety after five of its signature swans were struck and killed by motorists.

In a report by The Ledger, Lakeland Police spokesman Gary Gross said distracted driving appeared to be to blame for the swans' deaths during a three-week period.

A sixth swan was injured. About 70 swans live on Lakeland's Lake Morton.

THE CENSUS

206

The number of chicken wings downed in 12 minutes by competitive eating titan Joey "Jaws" Chestnut to notch a repeat win in an annual championship in Buffalo, N.Y. The National Buffalo Wing Festival tweeted the results of Sunday's contest. Chestnut has won several times before, including last year, when he swallowed 220 wings.



CARL JUSTE, MIAMI HERALD/AP

Weekly workout

Tony Lopez, center, leads a group of fitness enthusiasts in exercises Sunday in Miami Beach, Fla. Open to the public, the boot camp-style workouts are held every Sunday at South Pointe Park.

City officials and nearby residents plan to meet Thursday to discuss ways to slow or reduce traffic along the shoreline.

Dog saves family after bear breaks into house

NC BLACK MOUNTAIN — A woman said her dog died after warding off a bear that broke into her family's North Carolina home.

WRAL reported Saturday that the incident occurred in Black Mountain, a town outside Asheville in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Tiffany Merrill said she thought that she was going to die when the bear broke in. She yelled to her children to shut their doors.

Her dog, Pickles, which weighs only five pounds, "started barking and got the bear's attention and got the bear outside, and he saved my life."

Merrill said she couldn't save her dog.

Man faces charges over shooting at 'ghost'

CT TOLLAND — A Connecticut man who told police he was a paranormal investi-

gator faces several charges after firing shots in his house at what he said may have been a ghost.

Christain Devaux, 25, of Tolland, faces charges including the illegal discharge of a firearm, making a false statement to police, second-degree recklessness endangerment, misusing an emergency call and disorderly conduct.

Police said Devaux put two bullet holes in his wall on July 26, initially reporting the incident as an attempted break in. He later told police he believes the intruder was actually a spirit.

State police told the Journal Inquirer of Manchester that Devaux, who is free on \$5,000 bond, made a similar report in 2011.

Dispensary sells variety of pot-infused beers

NV LAS VEGAS — A Las Vegas marijuana dispensary has begun selling a variety of pot-infused beers made without alcohol.

The Las Vegas Sun reported Two Roots Brewing Co. released its line of marijuana beers Thursday at the Las Vegas reLeaf Dispensary.

The dispensary is offering Two Roots' lager, stout, new west IPA, blonde ale and wheat beers.

Michael Hayford, CEO of Two Roots' parent company, LightHouse Strategies, said the 10-ounce cans contain relatively low amounts of THC, the psychoactive compound that gives marijuana users a high.

He said the THC count in a Two Roots' beer is 20 to 50 times less than the count of a standard marijuana-infused beverage.

Officials work to coax sea lion back to water

AK ANCHORAGE — Wildlife officials came up with a new plan to coax a Stellar sea lion back to the ocean after it has been shuffling through neighborhoods in the southeastern Alaska city of Sitka since Friday.

The Anchorage Daily News reported officials were planning to construct a passageway of tarps and boards to keep the animal from seeing people, hoping the blinds will put him at ease and direct him back to the sea.

The adult male sea lion was first spotted on a road in Sitka on Friday morning. It then wandered to various locations and

was observed in a wooded area on Japonski Island on Sunday.

Julie Speegle, a spokeswoman with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said the sea lion is "likely stressed, dehydrated and hungry."

Police say man fled in stolen patrol car

KS KANSAS CITY — Authorities arrested a man who is accused of stealing a patrol car in Kansas City, Mo., and fleeing into Kansas City, Kan.

Police in Kansas City, Mo., said in a news release that an officer first approached the man because he had been spotted walking in traffic. The news release said that while the officer was trying to determine whether the man needed help, he jumped into the officer's patrol car and fled.

Police pursued the vehicle into Kansas City, Kan., where the man drove onto a road that was under construction.

The news release said the man then got out of the car and ran from it before being taken into custody nearby. No one was hurt.

From wire reports

FACES

'Crazy Rich Asians' doesn't slow down, leads third weekend

Los Angeles Times

The romantic comedy "Crazy Rich Asians" took the top spot at the box office for the third week in a row, grossing an estimated \$28.3 million for the four-day holiday weekend and raising its cumulative ticket sales for the U.S. and Canada to \$117 million.

Directed by Jon M. Chu and starring Constance Wu, Michelle Yeoh and Henry Golding, the film continues to build on an opening weekend that was the highest grossing for a romantic comedy since "Trainwreck" in 2015.

"Crazy Rich Asians" is based on the bestselling novel by Kevin Kwan and follows the story of a Chinese American woman as she learns of her boyfriend's Singapore family's wealth — and all that comes with it.

The film's momentum has been sustained by a combination of new and repeat viewers, said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

"It's just become a phenomenon," he said. "The repeat viewing, the enthusiasm people have and the fact that it's appealing to all audiences irrespective of their cultural backgrounds because of its universal themes, its humor. It's just a fun time at the movies."

"Crazy Rich Asians" has helped give the Labor Day weekend — and the summer season overall — a major boost, Dergarabedian said. Box office was up 64.3 percent from Labor Day 2017. The summer as a whole is up 14 percent over last year.

The shark movie "The Meg" finished the weekend in second, and "Mission: Impossible-Fallout," took third. "The Meg," now in its fourth week, brought in \$13.4 million. "Fallout," in its sixth week, grossed \$9.1 million for the four-day weekend.

Barr says she will be in Israel when 'The Conners' debuts

Don't expect one potential critic to weigh in on the debut of "The Conners," the ABC sitcom formerly known as "Roseanne" until its namesake star was chucked in May for making racists remarks on Twitter.

The usually sharp-tongued Roseanne Barr, whose firing from the show was a drama-filled saga that played out on social media, says she's staying "neutral" about the re-rebooted show and won't be paying much attention. In an interview with Rabbi Shmuley Boteach on the celebrity rabbi's podcast, the comedian said she'll be in Israel when the spinoff debuts in October.

"I have an opportunity to go to Israel for a few months and study with my favorite teachers over there," she said. "It's my great joy and privilege to be a Jewish woman."

Barr insists that she's not going to put the show on blast. "I'm not going to curse it or bless it," she said. "I'm staying neutral. That's what I do. I'm staying neutral. I'm staying away from it. Not wishing bad on anyone, and I don't wish good for my enemies."

Barr updated Boteach, on whose podcast she has appeared previously, on what she's been up to. She's cut a record in Nashville, and she's working on an unspecified new sitcom project, she said.

And she also offered another reason for her planned move: "I'm leaving California, because I'm sure it's going to fall into the sea soon."

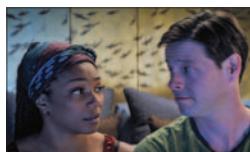
— The Washington Post



Barr



With Kevin Hart in "Night School"



With Ike Barinholtz in "The Oath"



With Whoopi Goldberg in "Nobody's Fool"

'Night School'

Release date: Sept. 28

Directed by: Malcolm D. Lee

Haddish plays Carrie, a night school teacher who pushes her adult students to earn their GEDs.

Sparring partner: Kevin Hart

Comedy style: "Family fun but very quick-witted," Haddish said.

Why she was right for the part: "The role of Carrie in 'Night School' was different than Dina in 'Girls Trip' because Tiffany has to deliver plot, drive scenes and times by the straight one as opposed to landing the improvisational joke," said Lee, who also directed "Girls Trip." "However, because of Tiffany's fearlessness, sharp wit and ability to improvise against an established comedic genius like Kevin, I thought she could not only handle the role but elevate what was on the page in her evolution as an actor."

Haddish says: "When we did 'Girls Trip,' it was a lot of hours and a lot of takes. And when we did 'Night School,' the difference is that we had Kevin Hart and he's, like, 'All right! You've got 30 minutes. This is it!' (Laughs) So it was kind of like working with two directors."

Haddish for all

Breakout star has 3 films out in the next 2 months

BY SONAIYA KELLEY ★ Los Angeles Times

Tiffany Haddish is having a great year.

Following a star-making turn in last summer's surprise hit "Girls Trip," the 38-year-old actress released a New York Times best-selling book ("The Last Black Unicorn"), hosted the 2017 MTV Movie & TV Awards, became the first black female comic to host "Saturday Night Live," landed a lead role in the sitcom "The Last O.G." opposite Tracey Morgan, and debuted a Showtime comedy special, "Tiffany Haddish: She Ready! From the Hood to Hollywood."

The verified Groupon Super User also became the company's newest spokesperson thanks to an anecdote she shared on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

And the South Los Angeles native is showing no signs of letting up any time soon. This fall she'll return to movie theaters opposite comedy heavyweights like Kevin Hart and Whoopi Goldberg in three movies opening within three months: "Night School," "Nobody's Fool" and "The Oath."

"It feels good," she said. "It feels like I did exactly what I planned on doing."

As for what drew her to the three disparate roles (all of which were filmed after "Girls Trip") put her at the top of Hollywood's "next big thing" list, Haddish said

that each one resonated with her soul.

"They made me feel something, either laugh out loud or had something I agree with politically," she said.

Below, Haddish breaks down each role, and her directors share why no one else could play these parts.

'The Oath'

Release date: Oct. 12

Directed by: Ike Barinholtz in his directorial debut.

Haddish costars as Kai, a wife and mother who tries to keep the peace between her husband (played by Barinholtz) and in-laws after the government pressures citizens to swear an "optional" oath of loyalty to the president and causes deep divides among those with differing political views.

Her sparring partner: Barinholtz

Comedy style: "Political humor," Barinholtz said. "A little dry, but adventurous."

Why she was right for the part: "When I first saw Tiffany in 'Keane,' I was taken with her authenticity and toughness," Barinholtz said. "She only knows what's real. She was the singular face in my head when I was writing the character of Kai in 'The Oath.' And, much to my dismay, she was the crew's favorite person on set."

Haddish says: "With 'The Oath,' I was working with my best friend [Barinholtz] ... So it was like he was giving me directions but also we were helping each other and supporting each other ... It was a very positive and easy, fun set."

'Nobody's Fool'

Release date: Nov. 2

Directed by: Tyler Perry

Haddish stars as Tanya, a wild child who looks to her straightlaced, by-the-book sister (played by Tika Sumpter) for help getting back on track.

Her sparring partner(s): Sumpter and Whoopi Goldberg

Comedy style: "That's just that hood classic comedy," Haddish said. "Friday," that's us right there!" feel."

Why she was right for the part: "The role of Tanya was written for her," Perry said. "I wanted Tiffany to cut loose. I wanted her to have as much range and fun as she wanted to. I didn't want to put a chain or net around her talent. She's best left in her brilliantly raw, talented self. And, boy, did she deliver."

Haddish says: "Tiffany is a comedian. He needs to be doing stand-up comedy; the man is hilarious. And it was fast; it was like doing improv games, but we're not improvising because we had the script. It was just so much fun, like comedy sports. It was, like, 'How can I one-up myself? How can I one-up this situation?' Super fun. And fast."

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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By CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

Few Supreme Court decisions in recent memory were preceded by greater furor than National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius, the 2012 ruling on President Barack Obama's signature health care plan.

Unable to thwart "Obamacare" in Congress, conservatives turned to the federal courts, counting on a five-justice majority of Republican appointees on the Supreme Court ultimately to strike it down.

Obamacare's individual mandate to buy health insurance, enforced by a financial penalty, constituted an expansion of federal economic regulatory power so vast, conservatives argued, that it could empower Washington to order citizens to eat broccoli. Liberals countered that this was a bizarre misreading of well-established constitutional law, which, if validated by the Supreme Court, would undermine the doctrinal basis of all modern social legislation.

The issue bubbled up through the district and circuit courts in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, which itself would be a referendum on Obamacare and the future of the federal judiciary.

In this situation — fraught with risks to the judiciary's political independence and impartiality, actual and perceived — one lower-court judge urged his colleagues to think twice about plunging into the fray.

In a 65-page opinion dissenting from his court's 2-to-1 decision in November 2011 upholding the individual mandate, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, explained that the 145-year-old federal Anti-Injunction Act barred citizens from suing over the imposition of taxes — or variants such as the individual mandate's enforcement penalty — until they actually had to pay them. Therefore, the federal courts should not decide the merits of

the individual mandate until someone was forced to pay the penalty for failing to get insurance 2015 at the earliest.

Kavanaugh not only convincingly and comprehensively parsed arcane tax law. He also evinced a seared understanding of governmental processes, observing that the congressional tax-writing committee, and its staffs, who helped draft Obamacare were familiar with the Anti-Injunction Act, and therefore presumably intended it to apply, since they declined to include an exception in the bill.

Most important, Kavanaugh deferred to the political branches to resolve an issue "ripe with significant and potentially unforeseen implications for the Nation and the Judiciary" — unless and until judicial intervention became absolutely necessary. That part of Kavanaugh's opinion may seem unrealistic, given contemporary congressional dysfunction; as a summary of how separation of powers is supposed to work, though, it was spot-on.

In hindsight, it's clear that the Supreme Court's most conservative justices, including, in this case, the man Kavanaugh was nominated to succeed, swing voter Anthony Kennedy, were fired up to strike down the whole Affordable Care statute — or so their subsequent joint dissenting opinion trashng the law made clear.

The mandate survived only because conservative Chief Justice John Roberts issued a compromise ruling in tandem with liberals Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan, avoiding the upheaval that might have followed a 5-to-4 election-year ruling on the sitting president's signature achievement.

They could have saved themselves a lot of trouble by heeding Kavanaugh's words: "For judges, there is a natural and understandable inclination to decide these weighty and historic constitutional questions." But, he added, alluding to New Deal-era decisions on religious freedom and labor rights that the court promptly

achieved, "that's better than no hope at all."

reconsidered, "history and precedent counsel caution before reaching out to decide difficult constitutional questions too quickly, especially when the underlying issues are of lasting significance."

Kavanaugh was probably not free of political considerations himself. His opinion reads like implicit advice to conservative justices, including his old mentor Kennedy, on the true long-term interests of conservatism, and a legally credible means of serving them. By neither upholding nor striking down the mandate, Kavanaugh's opinion avoided overly offending either side in the Obamacare battle, preserving his own viability as a future Supreme Court nominee.

The essential point, though, is that Kavanaugh kept his cool when all about him were losing theirs. The bottom line of his opinion — the individual mandate gets to take effect — was not what the most fervent among his ideological allies wanted.

As the start of Senate hearings on Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination approached, you didn't hear too much about this particular opinion because neither Republicans nor Democrats have an interest in highlighting his capacity for judicial restraint. Both hope to win votes by emphasizing the degree to which he would enact a conservative agenda.

For those who support Roe v. Wade, affirmative action and tougher federal gun laws, and who worry about Obamacare cases still percolating in the lower courts — there is undoubtedly good reason to fret about a life-tenured appointment for Kavanaugh.

His opinion on the individual mandate, though, provides hope that he at least understands the costs — legal and, politically — of precipitous judicial action. Given the apparent inevitability of his confirmation, that's better than no hope at all.

Charles Lane is a Washington Post editorial writer specializing in economic and fiscal policy, a weekly columnist and a contributor to the PostPartisan blog.

Some media reaction to Trump fits his narrative

By TED KOPPEL
Special To The Washington Post

My journalistic colleagues and I are hurtling down a long, steep highway. There's no longer any resistance on the brake pedal and we realize, to our dismay, that we are unable to figure out what replaced the hand brake on this late-model vehicle. There has to be an emergency off-ramp: some media analogue to the gravel or sand-filled inclines designed to rescue runaway 18-wheelers, but for the moment there is none in sight, merely a horrifying sense of acceleration.

There's only so much mileage to be derived from any metaphor, but one more allusion. There are, among us, the adrenaline junkies, the speed freaks, for whom the thrill of the ride overwhelms all considerations of how the ride will end.

Whether by strategy or inadvertence, President Donald Trump has drawn much of the media into a distortion of their traditional roles. Editors and reporters insist that they are bound by the strictures of objectivity, but the very nature of the president's character — the preening, the boasting, the torrent of careless tweets and the avalanche of lies, the seemingly reckless assaults on pillars of the establishment — provokes reactions that confirm precisely what Trump's most avid supporters already believe: The creatures of "the swamp" belong to a secret society from which they are excluded.

When icons of the intelligence commu-

nity and retired leaders of the military community proclaim their solidarity with the president's most prominent targets, whose security clearances have been removed or threatened, Trump's supporters find confirmation of the existence and solidarity of the "deep state." When those targets then appear on a succession of cable news programs and are gently encouraged to denounce the president, his policies and his patriotism, the convictions of Trump's political base are merely reinforced.

It does not help the appearance of journalistic objectivity that the panels featuring the president's most enthusiastic critics also include a rotating cast of reporters from major newspaper and wire services. They are there daily, from pre-dawn appearances on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" to early evenings on CNN's "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer." Sometimes these same reporters end what must have been 16-hour days back on cable news, discussing their latest newspaper articles.

To the legions of viewers already convinced that Trump is a toxic threat to the very foundations of American democracy, those appearances amount to benedictions by some of the high priests of journalism. To Trump supporters, though, these are purveyors of "fake news," suspect precisely because their reporting so routinely and (it sometimes seems) exclusively focuses on negative aspects of the president's character and behavior.

What a brilliant piece of political jujitsu: Trump has turned reported evidence of his

many failings into confirmation of his villainy. Once that perception is pushed through the megaphone of conservative radio, especially by its pioneer and founding father, Rush Limbaugh, and once the message is crystallized on "Fox & Friends" in the morning and by Sean Hannity in the evening, it rages into the Rudy Giuliani obsession that "Trump isn't bad."

A partial journalistic remedy would be to lower the temperature, reduce the volume. Except, of course, that there is no story to match it. The world without Trump, even with reduced portions of Trump, would be a much duller place, and the industry of journalism does not thrive on dull. The paradox of the Trump presidency is that its very sleaziness has re-energized American journalism, even while undermining it.

The illusion that things will go back to normal after Trump is just that — a chimera. The nation has always been divided over race, immigration, sexual identity, gender equality, social safety nets, foreign entanglements. Journalism has always been fuelled by the disagreements over those issues. What Trump has injected into the equation is an intuitive appreciation for the internet and its capacity to make social media — Twitter and Facebook — easily accessible instruments of mass outrage. He is merely the first master manipulator to use the tool for political advantage. He will not be the last.

Ted Koppel, managing editor of ABC News' "Nightline" from 1980 to 2005, is senior contributor to CBS News' "Sunday Morning."

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Jackson, Hokies whip FSU

By MARK LONG
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Virginia Tech and coach Justin Fuente notched another season-opening victory against a ranked team.

Florida State and Willie Taggart delivered the program's most inept offensive performance at home in a decade, hardly the start Taggart had hoped for with the Seminoles.

Needless to say, it was easy to tell which Atlantic Coast Conference heavyweight looked like a title contender Monday night.

Josh Jackson threw two touchdown passes, one early and another late, and the 20th-ranked Hokies handled No. 19 Florida State 24-3 in the rain to spoil Taggart's debut in Tallahassee.

"It certainly wasn't perfect by any means, but to play as intelligent as we did, I am proud," said Fuente, who beat then-No. 22 West Virginia to open 2017.

Florida State looked dysfunctional and disorganized most of the night, finishing with five turnovers, a blocked punt that was returned for a touchdown and a missed field goal. It was the first time the Seminoles failed to score a touchdown at home since losing 12-3 to Wake Forest on Sept. 20, 2008.

"Tough loss," said Taggart, a former head coach at Oregon, South Florida and Western Kentucky. "Not what any of us expected. We didn't play a good game at all. It was very sloppy. It's hard to win a football game with five turnovers."

"We have to play much better. That's on all of us, starting with me."

The Hokies were good at the start and even better with the game on the line.



MARK WALLHEISER/AP

Virginia Tech Virginia Tech linebacker Rayshard Ashby, top, upends Florida State running back Jacques Patrick during Monday's game in Tallahassee, Fla.

Jackson connected with Erik Kumah over the middle with less than 6 minutes to play. Kumah bounded through three arm tackles and raced 49 yards for the game-sealing score. Jackson also opened the game with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Damon Hazelton in the corner of the end zone. Jackson lofted a pass that cornerback Levonta Taylor looked lost trying to defend.

Jackson completed 16 of 26 passes for 207 yards. Kumah finished with four catches for 86 yards.

Jackson also scored on special teams, scoping up the team's 75th touchdown punt since 1987. It was fitting since former Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer, known for his "Beamerball" brand of special teams, was on hand as an honorary captain.

The outcome probably shouldn't have been too surprising since the Hokies finished 9-4 in Justin Fuente's second season and returned a number of key players, including Jackson. The Seminoles are coming off a 7-6 season and are still getting acclimated to a new coaching staff.



DAVID J. PHILIP/AP

Alabama head coach Nick Saban, left, said Monday that Tua Tagovailoa, center, would be the Crimson Tide's starting quarterback over Jalen Harts, right.

It had become a touchy subject for Saban after repeated questions about the starter leading up to the game. Saban got testy with an ESPN reporter following a post-game question about the decision.

"We make all of our decisions here based on winning," Saban said. "Whoever we feel will give us the best opportunity to go out there and win, that's who we're going to play. Obviously, it's how you practice, how you prepare. I said it at the beginning, who wins the team."

"In our opinion, the one player did a little better job of that so he got the opportunity to start and we got the opportunity to play both guys and look and see how they performed and we're going to continue to try to help players improve and get better."

Clemson still going with 2 QBs

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Calmly and clearly, Clemson coach Dabo Swinney shared how once more the second-ranked Tigers will use both senior Kelly Bryant and freshman Trevor Lawrence at quarterback for Texas A&M this week.

Both had good moments in a blowout win over Furman last Saturday and both made mistakes, Swinney said. But neither gave the coaches any reason to stick them on the bench against the Aggies (1-0).

"We definitely will play both quarterbacks," Swinney said. "There's no doubt about that. Nothing happened to warrant not playing both those guys."

Bryant, last year's starter at Clemson (1-0), completed 11 of 17 passes for 132 yards and a touchdown. He also ran for a 35-yard TD. Lawrence, the 6-foot-6 strong-armed rookie, was 9-for-14 passing for 137 yards and three TDs, much to the delight of the packed house at Death Valley in a 48-7 win against Furman of the Football Championship Subdivision.

Co-offensive coordinator Jeff Scott said Monday it's not a two-quarterback system, just that the two quarterbacks are "part of the Clemson offense."

The play calls don't change depending on who's in, Scott said. It's not something he and fellow play-caller Tony Elliott consider much when piecing together the plan against Furman. Scott said he was driving home after Saturday's game when his mind flashed to Clemson's big plays and he needed to check the tape to remember which quarterback was in for which.

"It is what it is right now," Scott said. "Let's go, go play."

Try telling that to fans, several of whom have a very definite opinion about Clemson's QB1.

Bryant is an efficient, skilled leader and dynamic runner who sometimes struggles with his downfield passes. Lawrence was a Georgia state prep record setter with a smooth delivery. It was the freshman who garnered more cheers on Saturday.

None of it matters to Bryant, who is confident in his ability and takes pride in being a mentor to Lawrence — just as former Clemson star Deshaun Watson brought Bryant along.

Scott said Bryant was first off the bench to congratulate Lawrence after the freshman's first TD pass. "We see that relationship all the time with them," Scott said.

Bryant acknowledged there's an adjustment from a year ago when he took nearly every snap, guiding Clemson to a 12-2 record and its third straight Atlantic Coast Conference title and College Football Playoff berth.

"It's different, but at the same time it hasn't changed. In my mind I'm still the guy," Bryant said.

Lawrence is comfortable with the rotation.

"I know that he started on Saturday and I came in after," Lawrence said. "Right now, that's where we're at and I'm going to keep working and playing well whenever we go in."

"Nothing happened to warrant not playing both those guys."

Dabo Swinney

Clemson coach on playing two quarterbacks

MLB ROUNDUP

Yelich beats throw, Brewers beat Cubs

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Christian Yelich beat out a throw at first to avoid a double play, allowing Milwaukee's winning run to score in the ninth.

Game over, but the jubilant Yelich kept going — and turned across the outfield — before the rest of the happy Brewers finally caught up with him in short left.

Yelich's fielder's choice with the bases loaded in the ninth allowed Keon Broxton to score from third, and the Brewers opened an important three-game series with the Chicago Cubs with a 4-3 win Monday.

The .315 hitter hit a 1-2 fastball from Jesse Chavez at diving third baseman Kris Bryant, who touched third for the second out before firing to first. The speedy Yelich reached safely just before the throw landed in the glove of the outstretched Anthony Rizzo.

"I saw him catch it and I saw him go to third, so I just started busting it, man," Yelich said.

The second-place Brewers, looking to make the playoffs for the first time since 2011, pulled within four games of the NL Central-leading Cubs.

"It's fun," manager Craig Counsell said. "They might not be saying the same thing but it was a game with some great plays and a lot of individual efforts."

The Brewers took advantage of wildness by Cubs reliever Steve Cishek (4-3), who loaded the bases with a walk, passed ball and two hit batters. It set up the game-winning fielder's choice by Yelich, the reigning National League Player of the Week.

Mets 4, Dodgers 2: Pinch-hitter Brandon Nimmo slugged a go-ahead, three-run homer in the ninth inning, rallying visiting New York past Los Angeles in Jacob deGrom's latest stellar no-decision.

The loss ended the Dodgers' three-game winning streak and dropped them out of first in the NL West.

DeGrom pitched six innings of one-run ball and drove in the tying run for the Mets, but didn't factor into the decision. He extended his streak of 25 consecutive starts of three earned runs or fewer, breaking a tie with Dwight



AARON GASH/AP

The Brewers' Christian Yelich reacts after driving in the winning run during the ninth inning against the Chicago Cubs on Monday in Milwaukee. Yelich beat a throw to first that would have ended the inning.

Gooden (1985) for the longest run in Mets history.

Athletics 6, Yankees 3: Mark Canha homered and Matt Chapman hit an RBI double to back Trevor Cahill, leading host Oakland past New York in a matchup between two teams in the AL wild-card race.

The A's jumped on CC Sabathia early and pulled within 3 1/2 games of New York for the first wild card.

Cahill (3-3) improved to 5-0 with a 1.09 ERA in nine home starts, striking out three to leave him one shy of 1,000 for his career. The right-hander allowed four hits and three runs — two earned — in five innings.

Mariners 2, Orioles 1: Erasmo Ramirez allowed one run in 5 1/2 innings, and the Seattle bullpen shut down visiting Baltimore the rest of the way.

Ryan Healy had an RBI single and Dee Gordon added a sacrifice fly for the Mariners' runs.

Royals 5, Indians 1: Jakob Junis allowed two hits in seven shutout innings, Ryan O'Hearn homered twice and visiting Kan-

sas City won its season-high sixth straight.

Junis (8-12) gave up a two-out single to Francisco Lindor in the third and a leadoff single to Yonder Alonso in the fifth. The right-hander hit a batter, walked none, struck out six and retired the last nine hitters.

Rockies 9, Giants 8: Pinch-hitter Noel Cuevas delivered a go-ahead, two-run single in the eighth inning and host Colorado rallied after squandering a five-run lead.

Trevor Story hit two homers off Giants ace Madison Bumgarner and the Rockies seemed in command at 7-2 after five innings.

Pinch-hitters Alen Hanson and Chris Shaw hit back-to-back home runs in the eighth to put San Francisco in front.

White Sox 4, Tigers 2: Matt Davidson hit a two-run, game-tying homer as host Chicago scored three times in the bottom of the ninth for its eighth win in 11 games.

Davidson hit his 20th homer into the left-field bullpen on the first pitch he saw from Detroit

closer Shane Greene (2-6) after Welington Castillo singled. Daniel Palka's 21st home run to lead off the ninth tied it at 2.

Astros 4, Twins 1: Alex Bregman homered for the third straight game and Yuli Gurriel also went deep to help Houston win its third straight.

Dallas Keuchel (11-10) scattered five hits over six innings and allowed an unearned run for his second straight win. Brad Peacock allowed a lead with two out in the ninth to load the bases but struck out Jorge Polanco to escape the jam and get his third save.

Nationals 4, Cardinals 3 (10): Bryce Harper hit a tying, two-run homer in the ninth inning, then delivered a sacrifice fly in the 10th that lifted host Washington past St. Louis.

The Cardinals led 3-1 with one out in the ninth when Harper hit his 31st home run, sending a 96 mph fastball from closer Bud Norris over the center field fence.

Mark Reynolds led off the Washington 10th with a double that went in and out of right field.

er Tyler O'Neill's glove. Pinch-runner Michael Taylor moved to third on Adam Eaton's bunt single and an out later; Harper flied to deep left. Taylor slid in safely, well ahead of Marcell Ozuna's throw.

Red Sox 8, Braves 2: Ian Kinsler drove in three runs and Boston continued its interleague success, beating host Atlanta in a matchup of division leaders.

The Red Sox have won 23 of their past 27 games against National League teams. Boston has the best record in the majors and is atop the AL East.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 2: Franmil Reyes homered twice and had four RBIs, Bryan Mitchell pitched five effective innings and visiting San Diego knocked off Arizona.

Reyes hit a three-run homer off Zack Godley (4-8) in the second inning and a solo shot off the right-hander in the fourth.

The Diamondbacks have lost four of five to drop two games behind Colorado in the NL West.

Angels 3, Rangers 1: Matt Shoemaker pitched five scoreless innings in his first start for visiting Los Angeles in more than five months, and Taylor Ward snapped a scoreless tie with his seventh-inning homer.

Rays 7, Blue Jays 1: Blue Jays starter Marcus Stroman got roughed up early in his return from the disabled list, and Ji-Man Choi hit a solo homer to lead visiting Tampa Bay.

Joey Wendle had three hits, Matt Duffy had two hits and two RBIs, and Tommy Pham reached base three times for the Rays.

Pirates 5, Reds 1: Trevor Williams continued his stretch of strong starts by pitching 6 2/3 scoreless innings, and Adam Frazier had a career high-tying four hits, including a solo home run to lead host Pittsburgh past Cincinnati.

Marlins 3, Phillies 1: Visiting Philadelphia mustered only four hits and no walks against Jose Urena and two relievers in a road loss to last-place Miami.

The Phillies, who began the afternoon four games behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East, lost their third game in a row. They're 9-17 since Aug. 6, when they led the division.

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US OPEN/SPORTS BRIEFS

Federer stunned by 55th-ranked Millman

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Roger Federer served poorly. He volleyed poorly. Closed out sets poorly, too. And now he's gone, beaten at the U.S. Open by an opponent ranked outside the top 50 for the first time in his illustrious career.

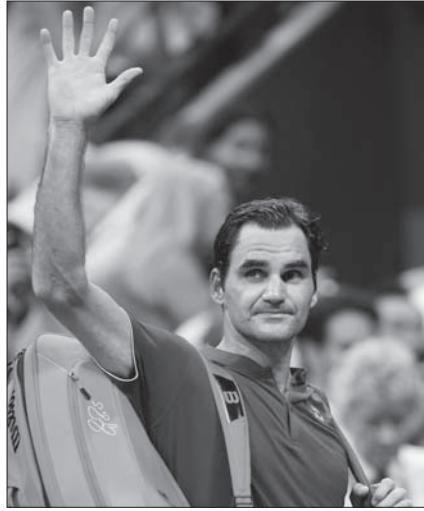
Looking slow and tired on a sweltering night in Arthur Ashe Stadium, the No. 2-seeded Federer double-faulted 10 times, failed to convert a trio of set points and lost 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3) in the fourth round to John Millman in a match that concluded at nearly 1 a.m. on Tuesday.

To Federer, it was all about the heat and the humidity. With the temperature in the 80s, even with the sun down, and the humidity at about 75 percent, he was unable to summon his usual verve.

"Was just one of those nights where, I guess, I felt I couldn't get air. There was no circulation at all. I don't know, for some reason I just struggled in the conditions tonight. It's one of the first times it's happened to me," the 37-year-old Federer said. "It's uncomfortable. Clearly just keep on sweating more and more and more as the match goes on. You lose energy as it goes by. But John was able to deal with it better."

It's only the second time in Federer's past 14 appearances at the U.S. Open that he's lost before the quarterfinals. He is, after all, a five-time champion at the tournament, part of his men's record haul of 20 Grand Slam titles.

"In all honesty, Roger's a hero of mine. I look up to him," said Millman, an Australian who is 29. "I felt a little bit guilty today, because he didn't have his best day,



JASON DECROW/AP

Roger Federer waves to the crowd after losing to John Millman in the fourth round of the U.S. Open on Monday.

and that's for sure. I know that. I'm very aware he didn't have a great day in the office. Probably, to beat him, I needed him to have an off-day and I needed to have a decent, good day."

So much for that highly anticipated matchup between Federer and 13-time major champion Novak Djokovic in the quarter-

finals. Instead, it will be Millman, who had never made it past the third round at a Slam until last week, taking on Djokovic.

Hours before, Djokovic left the court for a medical timeout—the second time during the tournament he's sought help from a doctor because of harsh weather—during what would become an

otherwise straightforward 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 victory over 65th-ranked Joao Sousa of Portugal.

"I'm not 21 anymore. That was 10 years ago. I still don't feel old. But at the same time, there is a little biological clock that is not really working in your favor," Djokovic said. "Sometimes, you just have to survive."

He reached the quarterfinals for an 11th consecutive appearance in New York as he bids for a third U.S. Open championship and 14th Grand Slam trophy.

The other quarterfinal on the bottom half of the draw will be a rematch of the 2014 U.S. Open final: No. 7 Marin Cilic against No. 21 Kei Nishikori.

Federer wasn't the only former champion to lose on Monday.

With a mistake-filled performance, Maria Sharapova lost a night match at Flushing Meadows for the first time in her lengthy career, beaten 6-4, 6-3 by No. 30 seed Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain on Monday.

"Just a little too up-and-down" is the way Sharapova described her performance.

It's the third consecutive appearance that ended one step short of the quarterfinals for the 31-year-old Sharapova, who had been 22-0 under the lights at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Since her championship, Sharapova has only once made it to the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open—in 2012, when she lost in the semifinals.

On Wednesday, Suarez Navarro and her smooth, one-handed backhand will take on 2017 runner-up Madison Keys of the United States. Keys advanced by beating No. 29 Dominika Cibulkova 6-1, 6-3.

Scoreboard

Monday

at USA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

New York

(seedings in parentheses; Men's Singles Fourth Round)

Marin Cilic (7), def. David Goffin (10), Belgium 6-3, 6-2, 6-4
Kei Nishikori (21), Japan, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany 6-3, 6-2, 7-5
John Millman, Australia, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal 6-3, 6-4, 6-3
John Millman, Australia, def. Roger Federer (2), Switzerland 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3).

Men's Singles Fourth Round

Carla Suarez-Navarro (30), Spain, def. Maria Sharapova (22), Russia, 6-4, 6-3
Madison Keys (14), United States, def. Dominika Cibulkova (29), Slovakia 6-3, 6-1
Kazuyuki Ozaki (20), Japan, def. Aryna Sabalenka (26), Belarus 6-3, 6-2, 6-4
Lesia Tsurenko, Czech Republic, def. Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (2).

Men's Doubles Third Round

Bruno Soares (3), Brazil, and Jamie Murray (4), Britain, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands and Matwe Middelkoop (14), Netherlands 7-6 (4), 6-4
Mike Bryan (3), United States and Jack Sock (3), United States, def. Franko Skupin, Croatia and Dominic Inglot (16), Britain 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-3.

Robert Farah, Colombia, and Juan Sebastian Cabal (5), Colombia, def. Marcelo Melo (2), Brazil, and Ivan Dodig (11), Croatia 6-2, 6-5, 6-3.

Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France and Jean-Baptiste Matheron (15), France, def. Fabrice Martin, France and Jeremy Chardy, France, 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-3.

Women's Doubles Third Round

Demet Schuurs, Netherlands and Elise Mertens (7), Belgium, def. Su-Wei Hsieh, Taiwan, and Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus 7-5, 6-4.

Coco Vandeweghe, United States and Madison Keys (14), United States, def. Barbara Strycova, Czech Republic, and Andrea Sestini Hlavackova (3), Czech Republic 6-3, 6-3.

Yaroslava Shvedova, Pavlyuchenkova, Russia and Anastasia Sevastova, Latvia, def. Christina McHale (15), United States 6-4, 6-3.

Lucie Hradecka, Czech Republic and Ekaterina Makarova (16), Russia, def. Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Australia and Magda Linette, Poland, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

Briefly

Kaepernick has deal with Nike though he's not in NFL

Associated Press

Colin Kaepernick has a new deal with Nike, even without having a job in the NFL.

Kaepernick's attorney, Mark Geragos, made the announcement on Twitter, calling the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback an "All American Icon" and crediting attorney Ben Meiselas for getting the deal done. Kaepernick also posted a Nike ad featuring his face and wrote: "Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything. #JustDoIt."

Kaepernick already had a deal with Nike that was set to expire, but it was renegotiated into a multi-year deal to make him one of the faces of Nike's 30th anniversary "Just Do It" campaign, according to a person familiar with the contract. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Nike hasn't officially announced the contract.

The source says Nike will feature Kaepernick on several platforms, including billboards, television commercials and online ads. Nike also will create an apparel line for Kaepernick and contribute to his Know Your Rights charity. The deal puts Kaepernick in the top bracket of NFL players with Nike.

The NFL and Nike extended their partnership in March to run through 2028. Nike provides all NFL teams with game-day uniforms and sideline apparel that bears the swoosh logo.

Last week, Kaepernick scored a legal victory in his grievance against the NFL and its 32 teams when an arbitrator denied the league's request to throw out the quarterback's claims that owners conspired to keep him out of the league because of his protests of social injustice.

Kaepernick contends the owners violated their collective bargaining agreement with players by conspiring to keep him off teams. His case hinges on whether

the owners worked together rather than decided individually to not sign Kaepernick.

A similar grievance is still pending by former 49ers teammate Eric Reid, a Pro Bowl safety who joined in the protests.

Meanwhile, the league and players union still haven't resolved whether players will be punished this season if they choose to kneel or demonstrate during the national anthem.

DeChambeau earns 2nd straight FedEx Cup win

NORTON, Mass. — Bryson DeChambeau plays golf differently from everyone else and is getting the results everyone wants.

It doesn't take a scientist to figure that out.

For the second straight week in the richest part of the PGA Tour season, DeChambeau took down one of the strongest fields of the year by playing his best golf on the weekend to win the Dell

Technologies Championship, becoming only the second player to capture the opening two playoff events in the FedEx Cup.

He closed with a 4-under 67 on Monday, making three straight birdies to close out the front nine and keeping his distance the rest of the way for a two-shot victory over Justin Rose on the TPC Boston.

"I wouldn't have written it any better, to be honest with you," DeChambeau said. "I've been playing some great golf this whole year. And I knew it was a matter of time before something cool showed up."

DeChambeau, who started the year at No. 99 in the world, moved to No. 7, one spot past Rory McIlroy. He finished at 16-under 268 and made \$1,620,000 for the second straight week.

DeChambeau is assured of being the No. 1 seed when he gets to the Tour Championship, no matter what happens next week at the third playoff event.

President of scandal-hit USA Gymnastics quits

Kerry Perry resigned under pressure as USA Gymnastics president Tuesday, the move coming days after the U.S. Olympic Committee questioned her ability to lead a path forward for an organization rocked by scandal.

Perry spent nine months on the job and repeatedly came under scrutiny by athletes who felt she was mishandling the fallout from the tumult surrounding disgraced former team doctor Larry Nassar.

Jets sign Wheeler to \$41.25M, 5-year deal

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — The Winnipeg Jets signed captain Blake Wheeler to a \$41.25 million, five-year contract extension.

The 32-year-old Wheeler led the Jets with a career-high 91 points last season.

NFL

Seat: Coaches say practice tempo enough preparation

FROM BACK PAGE

"It's kind of hard to say you shouldn't or should play in them," said Cowboys receiver Cole Beasley, who nursed a sore groin most of training camp but got 13 snaps in Dallas' third preseason game. "You can get hurt in a regular-season game just like those. It's just football, man. It happens."

Several teams rested at least one offensive starter throughout the preseason. The Los Angeles Rams didn't play 10 of their 11, the exception being right guard Jamon Brown because he will be suspended for the first two games and needed extra work.

While Sean McVay preferred to get third-year quarterback Jared Goff some playing time, he didn't want it to be backup offensive linemen because it was more important to the coach to rest the veteran starters up front.

Plus, McVay is counting on familiarity with 10 returning starters, including running back Todd Gurley, from a unit that led the Rams to the playoffs last season.

"I've been around a lot of players that have gone through preseasons where they haven't played and seemed like they were ready to go," McVay said. "I think the reason we felt like this was best was because of the continuity that we did have, specific to the offense."

Coaches who sit healthy stars in the preseas will say they believe their practice tempo gets them ready. Cowboys right guard Zack Martin, a Pro Bowler in each of his first four seasons, would slightly disagree, even after a preseas scare with a knee injury in the second game against Cincinnati that ended up not being serious.

"You need those reps," Martin said. "You're in training camp. Obviously those are good reps, but you're going against the same guys, the same defense. Just the fact that you get to see new guys, new moves, new defenses. That's a big part of it I think that's huge."

Receiver Julio Jones and running back Devonta Freeman sat the entire preseas for the Falcons despite being healthy.

Pittsburgh receiver Antonio Brown didn't play while nursing a minor injury and Odell Beckham Jr. sat out for the New York Giants coming off a broken left ankle that sidelined him most of last season.

It appeared Tennessee was protecting Delanie Walker before revealing that the 34-year-old tight end sustained an undisclosed injury during joint practices with Tampa Bay and was unavailable for the final three exhibitions.

"I am very confident that I'll be ready," said Walker, a three-time Pro Bowler. "I have been playing 13 seasons, and I've played in a lot of preseas games. So when you only get like five plays in a preseas game, I don't know if that helps you or not."

Stephen Jones, executive vice president of personnel for the Cow-

boys and owner/general manager Jerry Jones' son, doesn't think it helps. Even without a name being mentioned, he knew the question was specifically about Elliott, his third-year back who led the NFL in rushing as a rookie in 2016.

"I'm sure every back is different," Jones said. "I've read quotes from other backs in the league that they don't think they need it. I don't know what five snaps does in a preseas game."

Jones, however, disagrees with his dad on shortening the preseas. NFL football operations chief Troy Vincent says teams are polled every year on that idea, and are usually split down the middle. Stephen Jones believes it's important for younger players to get a chance to show what they can do in games.

"I know the fans may not love it as much," he said. "I understand that, but there are a group of fans out there who really enjoy watching these young players develop."

Vincent, a defensive back for 15 seasons, remembers playing in multiple exhibitions — and sometimes skipping the preseas entirely.

"To get into football shape — true football shape — the only way to do that is on the field, and the best way is in game action," Vincent said. "I really feel for the coaches and putting together a roster because they have to make sure the players are getting in the work to be evaluated."

But there are plenty of players who don't need to be evaluated. Elliott is obviously among them after leading the league in yards rushing per game for the second straight year while missing six games on a suspension over domestic violence allegations.

"This is the most comfortable I have felt in this offense," Elliott said at halftime of the preseas finale in Houston. "I believe I have had a great camp and enough reps that I'm ready to play."



ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

The Falcons' Matt Ryan, left, and Julio Jones stand on the sideline for an Aug. 30 preseas game against Miami in Atlanta. Jones sat out the entire preseas despite being healthy.



NICK WASS/AP

Quarterback Alex Smith is everything Kirk Cousins couldn't be enough of for the Washington Redskins. He's an established, veteran NFL quarterback who signed on long term and is already being called by teammates the kind of leader they needed.

DC's undisputed leader

QB Smith firmly in role Cousins never quite fit into

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

Alex Smith doesn't believe in assigned seats.

As he tried to get to know his new Washington Redskins teammates, Smith sat in a different seat for each meeting.

Defensive line coach Jim Tompula knew that from his time with Smith in San Francisco, and running back Chris Thompson beamed, "That's a trait from your quarterback that you like to see."

It's a concerted effort by Smith to fit in with the guys, something he did quickly after taking over as the Redskins' franchise quarterback.

Be it his personality, his depth of NFL experience or the long-term contract that previous starter Kirk Cousins never had in Washington, Smith has already assumed the place of unquestioned leader and made players sense an entirely different vibe around the team.

"It's about putting yourself out there, being real and nothing fake, nothing phony but getting to know the guys, letting your guard down," Smith said. "I'm more conscious of it as I've gotten older about that, about the responsibility as a teammate, being a good teammate."

No one around the Redskins is calling Cousins a bad teammate, and team brass is reluctant to compare him and Smith on or off the field. But ever since Smith took the field in practice in burgundy and gold, he has been the subject of glowing praise about his ability to lead.

"He's always been a leader," left tackle Trent Williams said. "You could tell he's comfortable in that role. He's what we needed."

A series of one-year contracts made Cousins unwilling or unable

to fully fill that void. After signing a guaranteed \$84 million, three-year deal with the Minnesota Vikings, Cousins felt he finally had "a license to lead" that was never there with the Redskins, who took him in the same draft as Robert Griffin III, made him compete for the starting job and never agreed to a long-term contract.

Washington not only acquired Smith from Kansas City but signed him to a \$94 million, four-year extension with \$71 million guaranteed and put the pressure on him to get back to the playoffs for the first time since the 2015 season.

That's as much as license to lead as anything, but the 34-year-old brushed off the trappings of that kind of security.

"All you're guaranteed is a year at a time here and even game by game," Smith said. "I appreciate so much the opportunity I have today and right in front of me and I'm not really thinking past that. Contract, all this and that, I'm not feeling any kind of comfort in that. No, I've got a huge sense of urgency to go out there and to go right now, to go today. I'm not waiting on anything. So it doesn't change my approach at all."

It's that approach that quickly won Smith the respect of teammates, who spent the opening days of training camp talking about things feeling "different" this year.

This was a team with Jay Gruden entering his fifth season as head coach with almost the same core of players except at the most important position.

"We got a lot of leaders on this team, especially with your quarterback," safety DJ Swearinger said. "When you get a guy like Alex Smith in here, a lot changes. ... He's changed the leadership of how the offense approaches (the game). When they break the

huddle, it's a different bounce. It's a different way he comes on the line and commands the offense."

That's what senior vice president of player personnel and retired QB Doug Williams thought the Redskins were getting in Smith, who is coming off a season in which he set career highs with 4,042 yards passing and 26 touchdowns. Cousins threw for 4,000 yards the past three seasons, but Washington wanted a long-term answer and found it in Smith.

"When he walked in the building, you could feel Alex Smith taking control of the locker room and being part of what we were looking for from a stability standpoint," Williams said.

The practice field has been the setting for Redskins players getting an up-close look at Smith. Cornerback Josh Norman bemoaned not being able to get enough work in because Smith was too accurate and wouldn't make mistakes, and Swearinger called him the kind of player defenders hate to face.

Gruden sees Smith as someone who can run his playbook and is also tailoring some things to him to maximize his mobility and decision-making process.

"Really what CAN'T he do?" Gruden said. "We're just trying to come up with a plan of attack that utilizes his skillset and make him as comfortable as possible."

Smith looks and feels comfortable off the field, too."

Perhaps that's why his transition to Washington has been so seamless.

"He has the charisma, he has the character, he has everything that you want in a quarterback," Williams said. "And that's what they're supposed to be: a face of the franchise, and I can tell you this: Alex Smith fits that mold as a face of a franchise."

NFL PREVIEWS

49ers QB
Jimmy
Garoppolo
Josie Lipe/AP



Los Angeles Rams

For all the big changes on defense for the Rams, they predictably kept things very stable on offense after going from worst to first in the NFL in scoring in the initial year under McVay.

Los Angeles brings back 10 of 11 starters on offense, with the only change at receiver where Cooks replaced Sammy Watkins. It's a far cry from last year when the Rams broke in two new offensive linemen and a new receiver around Goff, who was getting ready for his first full season as an NFL starter.

This team clearly has big-play potential. Cooks is one of the league's best deep threats and Gurley led the NFL in yards from scrimmage (2,093) and TDs (19) last season, earning him the rare big-money contract as a running back.

NFC West

Rams no longer a surprise

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The Los Angeles Rams have gone from one of the NFL's biggest surprises to one of the top Super Bowl favorites in just one year. The Rams didn't rest after an impressive turnaround campaign in coach Sean McVay's first season, bringing in an impressive offseason haul led by three former All-Pros on defense, in defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh and cornerbacks Marcus Peters and Aqib Talib, along with big-

play receiver Brandin Cooks.

It's perhaps the most talent added in one offseason since the San Francisco 49ers brought in Deion Sanders, Ken Norton Jr., Rickey Jackson and Richard Dent 24 years ago and ended up as Super Bowl champs.

The newcomers join a roster that features a promising young quarterback in Jared Goff, an elite running back in Todd Gurley, a stout offensive line led by left tackle Andrew Whitworth — and perhaps Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Donald, who held out for a second straight training camp but could be back for the

start of the season.

The Rams figure to be challenged most in the NFC West by a rejuvenated San Francisco team that won the final five games last year after Jimmy Garoppolo took over as quarterback.

Seattle still has Russell Wilson but few other key pieces from the 2013 Super Bowl team, and Arizona has three of the division's top players in receiver Larry Fitzgerald, cornerback Patrick Peterson and running back David Johnson, who is coming back from a wrist injury.

Predicted order of finish: Rams, 49ers, Cardinals, Seahawks.

San Francisco 49ers

The 49ers' fortunes changed almost immediately after acquiring Garoppolo at last year's trade deadline. A team that started 2017 with nine straight losses finished with five straight wins after Garoppolo took over as starter.

He completed 67.4 percent of his passes last season, averaging 8.8 yards per attempt with seven TDs, five interceptions and a 96.2 rating to improve to 7-0 in his career as a starter. His 308.4 yards passing per game in his five starts also would have led the league had he played a full season.

The Niners have some questions on defense, where they are hoping Richard Sherman can get back to his level as a shutdown cornerback and someone can complement defensive tackle stud DeForest Buckner.

Arizona Cardinals

There have been big changes in Arizona with quarterback Carson Palmer retired and coach Bruce Arians moving from the sideline to the broadcast booth.

But the biggest deal for the Cardinals this year is the health of Johnson, the do-everything back whose 2017 season ended with an injury in the opener. Johnson is healthy again, and if he can get back to the form with which he ranked second in the NFL with 2,118 yards from scrimmage in 2016, that should take pressure off the quarterback.

Off-injured Sam Bradford begins the year as starter, but he has only played 80 games in eight seasons. He has torn the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee twice, and another left knee injury ruptured early all of his 2017 season in Minnesota.

Seattle Seahawks

The Seahawks have been one of the most consistent teams in the league under coach Pete Carroll the past few years. Seattle has posted six straight seasons of top two finishings in the division and winning records, missing the playoff only last year. But much of the core of the team that went to back-to-back Super Bowls in the 2013 and '14 seasons is gone.

Defensive end Michael Bennett was traded, cornerback Richard Sherman was cut and wound up with the archival 49ers, tight end Jimmy Graham left as a free agent and defensive stars Cliff Avril and Kam Chancellor have had career-ending injuries. Even safety Earl Thomas' status is in doubt as he has held out all offseason in hopes of getting a new contract.

NFC South

3 contenders make for tough division

By BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

Recent history would indicate that the NFC South is among the NFL's strongest divisions.

Three of its four teams — New Orleans, Atlanta and Carolina — made the playoffs last season.

Yet, in today's NFL, fortunes have been known to vacillate widely from one year to the next.

"Obviously, there is parity in our league," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "What I mean by that is, teams very quickly can improve themselves in the division. You

see that each year."

Payton has urged his players to take the approach that they are "starting from square one and it's an entirely different year."

But it's tough to entirely drown out the expectations surrounding a club that won 11 of its last 14 regular-season games and beat the Panthers in the playoffs before nearly advancing to the NFC title game. Only an unlikely 61-yard touchdown pass play by the Vikings as time expired prevented the Saints from going to Philadelphia.

Much of New Orleans' success stemmed from young players — namely running back Alvin Kamara and cornerback Mar-

shon Lattimore, the 2017 offensive and defensive rookie award winners. Many other key players — Pro Bowl receiver Michael Thomas, right guard Ryan Ramczyk, safeties Vonn Bell and Marcus Williams, defensive tackles Sheldon Rankins and David Onyemata, cornerback Ken Crawley, and linebacker Alex Anzalone — have been in the NFL two or fewer years.

That gave the Saints the luxury of approaching the past offseason with the mission of refining rather than overhauling.

Predicted order of finish: Saints, Falcons, Panthers, Buccaneers.

New Orleans Saints

For all of the Saints' promising youth, their most important player still might be their eldest: 39-year-old Drew Brees.

There's little evidence of a drop-off yet. Last season he completed an NFL record 72 percent of his passes and his eight interceptions were his lowest since throwing seven with the Chargers in 2004.

But he might have to throw more this season than last — at least early on. Pro Bowl running back Mark Ingram is suspended the first four games for use of a banned substance.

The good news for New Orleans is the entire offensive line is intact after strong showings in 2017.

Atlanta Falcons

The Falcons have taken measures to make sure two key playmakers, wide receiver Julio Jones and running back Devonta Freeman, are healthy to start the season. Neither played in a preseason game.

Jones had minor surgery on his left foot after the 2016 season and had two ankle injuries, plus injuries to his back, ribs, thumb and knee last season. Even so, he had 88 catches for 1,444 yards and three touchdowns.

Last year, Freeman had two concussions and was slowed by a knee problem.

The Falcons led the NFL in scoring in their 2017 Super Bowl season but fell back to the middle of the pack last year.

Carolina Panthers

The Panthers sought to get faster in the offseason to compete with the Saints, who beat them three times last season, including in the wild-card round. They've added speed at wide receiver, trading for Torrey Smith, signing free agent Janoris Wright and drafting D.J. Moore from Maryland in the first round. Coach Ron Rivera is also hoping 2017 second-round pick Ross Culkin can stay healthy, unlike last season. Those receivers and versatile running back Christian McCaffrey could give QB Cam Newton a lot of reasons not to run himself.

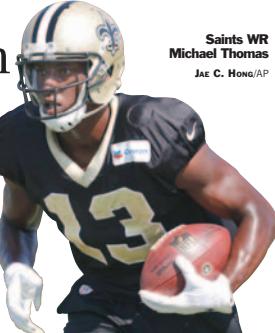
Carolina also went in the Saints' backyard to get help on defense, drafting LSU cornerbacks Donte Jackson in the second round.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

The Bucs lost 10 of 13 following a 2-1 start a year ago, missing the playoffs for the 10th consecutive season.

Their chances of escaping the division cellar and ending the long drought will be impacted by how they play without QB Jameis Winston, who'll miss the first three games while serving a suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy.

After opening on the road at New Orleans, home games follow against defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. An O-3 start could be difficult to overcome, even if Winston plays well when he returns.



Saints WR
Michael Thomas
JAE C. HONG/AP

NFL PREVIEWS



Vikings QB
Kirk Cousins
BRUCE
KLUCZKOWSKI/AP

Minnesota Vikings

The pressure is heavy on Cousins to perform as well or better than Keenum did as a fill-in for Minnesota last fall. The offensive line is again carrying major question marks, with right guard Joe Berger retired and left guard Nick East likely out for the year with a neck injury. Center Pat Ertel has missed the entire preseason with his rehabilitation from shoulder and ankle surgeries, moving slower than anticipated.

The schedule is stiffer for the Vikings, too, with road trips to NFC powers Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Seattle and a visit to AFC champion New England.

"We know that we're not just getting handed 13 wins," wide receiver Adam Thielen said.

Green Bay Packers

Since winning the Super Bowl nearly eight years ago, in Rodgers' third season as the starter, Green Bay has not been back. The pass defense was the biggest culprit, and for a second straight year the front office used the top of the draft to add cornerbacks. Kevin King was the first pick in 2017, and Jaire Alexander and Josh Jackson were the first two players off the board in 2018. They join new defensive coordinator Mike Pettine.

Having a healthy Rodgers back was the biggest step the Packers could take toward returning to the playoffs, after their streak of eight straight appearances was stopped, but a deeper and stronger secondary was necessary to get back on that title track.

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Will the Minnesota Vikings pick up where they left off, following their surge to the NFC championship game last season?

Or will the Green Bay Packers rebound forcefully enough to take back the division they've mostly dominated for two decades?

The annual report on the NFC North has almost always focused on the Packers, the Vikings or both of these fierce rivals since the NFL's most recent realignment produced the current eight-division format in 2002.

With new head coaches in Detroit (Matt Patricia)

and Chicago (Matt Nagy) this year, a big breakout by the Lions or Bears would be necessary to bump the Vikings and Packers from the lead story of 2018.

The Vikings lost Case Keenum to free agency, but signed the best available replacement on the market in Kirk Cousins. They upgraded at tackle with Sheldon Richardson, too, toting as many top-tier players in the 22-man starting line-up as anyone in the NFL.

With the aspiration of winning the Super Bowl for the first time in the franchise's 58-year history, the Vikings must be concerned about an entire NFC that's as stacked as ever. But for Minnesota, there's no greater competition, now or over the past quarter-century, than Green Bay.

The Packers are past the pain of

losing two-time league MVP award winner Aaron Rodgers, whose broken collarbone in the sixth game of the season ended the dream scenario of hoisting the Super Bowl trophy on Minnesota's home turf.

Five-time Pro Bowl tight end Jimmy Graham has joined Green Bay's dangerous offense. As if Rodgers needed anymore motivation to go with his game-changing ability, the Vikings are the very team that knocked him out of action when linebacker Anthony Barr flattened him with a hard hit.

So who's the favorite here? Well, the answer will start to form quickly, when the Vikings visit the Packers in the second game on Sept. 16.

Predicted order of finish: Vikings, Packers, Lions, Bears.

NFC East

Eagles have difficult task trying to repeat

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Before they try to become the ninth team to repeat as Super Bowl champions, the Philadelphia Eagles will try to accomplish another tough task.

Winning consecutive NFC East titles is so difficult it hasn't happened since the Eagles did it four straight seasons from 2001-04. It's also been 13 years since the New England Patriots were the most recent team to win back-to-

back Super Bowl championships.

On paper, the Eagles are deeper and stronger than the squad that beat the Patriots 41-33 in February. Franchise quarterback Carson Wentz, nine-time Pro Bowl left tackle Jason Peters, playmaking linebacker Jordan Hicks and versatile running back Darren Sproles are returning from injuries that forced them to miss the playoffs.

They also have several new additions, including veteran defensive linemen Michael Bennett

and Haloti Ngata, and rookie tight end Dallas Goedert.

But the favorites don't always come out on top and the road won't be easy for the Eagles in a competitive division.

"Our goal every year is to win the Super Bowl," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said.

Standing in Philadelphia's way will be two-time Super Bowl champion Eli Manning and the revamped New York Giants, who added running back Saquon Barkley with the No. 2 overall pick in

the draft. The Dallas Cowboys expect to have Ezekiel Elliott for a full season and are looking for Dak Prescott to return to his rookie form after a so-so second season. The Washington Redskins acquired quarterback Alex Smith to lead the way.

Predicted order of finish: Eagles, Giants, Cowboys, Redskins.

Giants RB Saquon Barkley

BRAD PENNER/AP

Philadelphia Eagles

Wentz and a high-powered offense that won the Super Bowl with backup quarterback Nick Foles get much of the attention in Philly, but Jim Schwartz's defense was dominant last season and should be even better.

The front four led by Fletcher Cox and Brandon Graham is so deep that Bennett, Ngata and Chris Long are rotational players instead of starters.

The Eagles also have plenty of depth in the secondary with Pro Bowl safety Malcolm Jenkins and cornerbacks Ronald Darby, Jalen Mills and Sidney Jones. If Hicks stays healthy, this unit should dominate again.

New York Giants

Manning may be the oldest player on the Giants, but he has a new offense-minded head coach — Pat Shurmur — and a talented cast of skill players.

Barkley bolstered the running attack. He joins star receiver Odell Beckham Jr., Sterling Shepard and tight end Evan Engram.

A defense that was stellar two years ago still has talent with safety Landon Collins, cornerback Janoris Jenkins, run stuffer Damon Harrison and end Olivier Vernon. If the offense lives up to expectations and the defense returns to form, the Giants could battle for the division.

Dallas Cowboys

Jason Witten retired and Dez Bryant was released, leaving Prescott with fewer weapons. The career of 2016 All-Pro center Travis Frederick is uncertain because of an autoimmune condition, and four-time Pro Bowl guard Zack Martin injured his knee in the preseason. Elliott's success depends on an offensive line that's the best in the business when healthy.

Meanwhile, the defense relies on linebacker Sean Lee. With him, they're solid, but he has a history of injuries.

There's enough talent in Dallas for the Cowboys to stay in the mix.

Washington Redskins

Smith is a winner wherever he goes. He was 69-31-1 as a starter for the 49ers and Chiefs since 2011, but only 2-5 in the playoffs. Kirk Cousins put up prolific numbers, but was 26-30-1 with a loss in his only playoff start.

Losing rookie running back Derrius Guice hurt an offense lacking talent at the skill spots. Adrian Peterson is nearing the end of his career but has a shot to be a featured back once again.

The Redskins will be tough on opponents but don't have enough pieces to contend.



AP

SPORTS

**Federer stunned**No. 2 seed eliminated by No. 55
in fourth round » **US Open, Page 28**

NFL

Taking a seat

Holding stars out of preseason raises issues of readiness

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ezekiel Elliott never lobbied publicly for a few snaps once the Dallas Cowboys decided to sit their healthy star running back for the entire preseason.

Frank Gore actually got two plays with the Miami Dolphins, and the 35-year-old going into his 14th season wanted more. Coach Adam Gase wouldn't have it.

"I heard about it during the game that he wasn't real happy," Gase said after the third preseason game, when starters usually get their most action before sitting in the finale. "When we went three-and-out, I'm kind of going, 'You got a catch, so does this count? He has a carry and a catch. Can I get him out of the game?'"

Sending able-bodied starters into the regular season without a game-speed snap isn't all that unusual, nor is the inevitable hand-wringing and second-guessing every time an important player gets injured in an exhibition game.

It's all part of the age-old balance of getting players ready for that first big hit or full-speed burst while protecting important pieces of Super Bowl hopes. The regular season starts Thursday night with Atlanta visiting defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia.

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■ NFC divisional previews, Pages 30-31



Dallas Cowboys running back
Ezekiel Elliott warms up before
a preseason game Aug. 30.

ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Jackson leads Virginia Tech over No. 19 FSU » Page 25

